

Council speaker gives review for **2014, 2015 predictions**

Yahola pleased with communication, cooperation

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In an interview with 'Mvskoke Radio' Radio Specialist Gary Fife, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola outlined some of the Council's priorities and progress in 2014 and what he predicts these will be in 2015.

"For this coming year, like I mentioned before for the Seat B elections, the citizens were asking about the funds of the Nation," Yahola said. "You know, 'Who has oversight? Is there accountability?"

According to Yahola, shortly after he was elected speaker following the 2013 Seat B Council elections, he asked each representative what they hoped to get out of the 18th Council

The Council relayed the aforementioned accountability concerns voiced by citizens and after this, both Yahola and the representatives had a revelation.

"As a result, one of the comments was, 'We've never been asked what we want to see and I like this," Yahola said. "I thought and thought, 'if we got



Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola gave a year-in-review for MCN in 2014 and some of his

that much input then how much more input could we get if we have work sessions?" "

predictions for 2015.

Yahola explained that these informal work sessions have become commonplace for the Council and that they have already gone toward addressing the financial accountability issues brought up in the first of such

"As a result, this is how the proposal for the forensic audit came about so we are in the process now of the forensic audit for different programs and also,

we're going to the allow the National Council to be audited just to show that we're going to be open with our records too," Yahola said.

An externally performed forensic audit of MCN was approved during the Aug. 23, 2014 Council session through NCR 14-004.

Yahola stated that the Council would review the audit during a work session held the week of Dec. 8, 2014.

"Following that, we will move forward in consensus on what our next step will be," Yahola said.

Representatives also voiced concerns regarding the number of projects assumed by MCN during the initial work session.

"Another was, 'Lets not get too many projects in front of us to where we can't keep track. Lets finish one project, maybe two before we move on to the next," Yahola said.

While Yahola is pleased with the progress made through these work sessions, he stated

Council - 2

Jan. 1, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 1 "Rvfo Cuse" Winter's Younger Brother



Margaritaville expansion moving ground

MCN to see immediate financial impact

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla. - The sounds of bulldozer engines and the beeping of construction vehicles driving in reverse surround the exterior of the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

Earth is being removed from the Arkansas Riverbed to the outskirts of the mile-long water frontage for riverbank stabilization. According to a factsheet supplied by RSC, 350,000 cubic yards of material will be moved over a 13acre building pad within a fivemonth period.

"It's finally happening. We've been working on this for years actually and it took over two years to get our 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers," RSC CEO Pat Crofts said. "We finally got that at the end of October and the first of November, we started turning dirt."

Crofts explained that the wait for the permit was typical, and hydrology and wildlife studies were required before they could apply for the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Corps of Engineers and Federal Aviation Administration permits.

Once site work and other infrastructure are completed, large cranes will be moved in around March 2015 to begin the upward expansion.

RSC estimates that the casino and low-rise buildings will be completed in September 2016, and the high-rise hotel in December 2016.

RSC projected that 1,800 construction workers will be hired as a result of the expansion and once completed, 800 new full-time jobs and 1,000

Expansion - 2

MCN Election Board releases unofficial election results

Eighteen percent of registered voters turnout

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. The unofficial results for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Special Election primaries held Dec. 13, 2014 show that candidates A.D. Ellis and Louis Hicks will be on the ballot for the Jan. 10 general election.

Polls will be open Jan. 10 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Voters who registered for absentee ballots for the primaries will receive an absentee ballot for the general election. Absentee ballots must be mailed in and cannot be taken to the polls on Jan. 10.

The MCN Election Board requests that voters report to their designated precinct to vote. To verify the precinct on record or request a change of address,



contact the Election Board at:

918-732-7685, 918-732-7631 or 918-732-7736. According to the Election Board, a total of 2,997 out of 16,423 registered voters cast

their ballot in the Dec. 13, 2014

primaries. There are 57,545

enrolled citizens who are

eligible to be registered voters. Election Board encourages citizens 18-yearsold and over to register.

A total of 1,656 voters requested absentee ballots for the Dec. 13, 2014 primary election. The majority of citizens who voted in the primaries did so by absentee ballot.

Eighteen precincts contained within the eight-

district MCN jurisdiction.

Official results were unavailable by the 'Muscogee Nation News' deadline.

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MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

MANAGER

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH <u>crich@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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Completed Okemah bridge project helps local children



MNN/Sterling Cosper

A walking bridge constructed to help children and other local residents cross a drainage ditch alongside Woody Guthrie Street was dedicated Dec. 12, 2014 in Okemah, Okla.

Four-way government collaboration highlighted

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKEMAH, Okla. - Three years ago, Okemah resident Joan Wilson noticed a hazard to local children across from her husband Orvel Wilson's car lot along Woody Guthrie Street.

"One day I was down here and the little kids were going into the ditch and they didn't have anybody to help them cross or anything and I thought, 'Hey, why can't we have a bridge?" Joan Wilson said.

She and Okemah City Manager Jerry Turner approached Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge about this

"This bridge involved four different government entities: the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Okfuskee County commissioners, the City of Okemah and the tribe. We all put our money together," La-Sarge said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger viewed the project as a bonding experience.

"It's not often that we are able to do this but when we do, it helps bring us and the communities we collaborate with closer together," Tiger said.

ODOT Director of Tribal Coordination Jay Adams believes this empowers all parties in-

"We are always stronger together than we are separately and this is a good example of that," Adams said.

MCN National Council Rep. Franklin Coachman stated that this has not always been the case.

"Back when I was growing up, you didn't hear about towns or ODOT working with tribes," Coachman said.

According to LaSarge, future projects may be in store.

"Another thing we're looking at doing is trying to apply for some funding to build sidewalks up to the school so the kids won't have to walk out in the street," LaSarge said.

Joan Wilson was pleased with the final results of this project.

"I think it's wonderful. I'm real proud," she said.

Citizen among 100 Women with Moxie awardees



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Dannetta McIntosh was recognized at the 100 Women with Moxie event held Dec. 2, 2014 at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, Okla.

McIntosh shares experiences, accomplishments

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Sept. 14, 2001, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dr. Dannetta McIntosh was one of only three people on a commercial plane bound for New York City.

"It was really kind of scary to be three people on a big jet," Mc-Intosh recalled.

McIntosh was working with Red Cross as a human relations and diversity expert, but she said she did whatever needed to be done as part of a four-person team tasked with checking highrise apartments surrounding ground zero after 9/11 to make sure everyone had been evacu-

They went door to door knocking and listening for sounds.

The doctor in the group thought he heard a sound in one apartment. He beat down the door and the team discovered a paraplegic woman in bed and barely alive.

"She could only operate her

finger on a button and the button had fallen off and some how we heard a noise," McIntosh

McIntosh was in New York for three and half weeks and worked 18-20 hours a day.

"The whole tragedy of 9/11, it was just a big pile of dust and stuff," McIntosh said.

In addition to conducting searches, she also assisted the relief aid tents. The tents coordinated with outside agencies to help the unemployed find jobs and apply for benefits.

"I got a call that there was a tent in complete disarray and there was fighting and arguing," McIntosh said.

After she was dispatched, she realized it was because a man with HIV was being refused ser-

"If you don't want to work here; if you don't want to work with HIV infected people; with people of color, whatever it is, then get out now and go find another job because these people need help. They don't need your criticism," McIntosh said.

McIntosh has not shied away from talking about HIV or working with HIV infected people. She has advocated HIV education and she wrote the first HIV curriculum targeted toward Native Americans for Red Cross.

"They had one for the general population, a Hispanic one and an African American one. And I said, 'Well, where is the Indian one?' " McIntosh said.

McIntosh explained that the curriculum she wrote identified issues Native Americans face. It also included some history on Native people.

"I tried to put everything, the posters into a circular method and talked about the emotional, the mental, the physical, the spiritual and tried to tie everything back to some sort of Native perspective," McIntosh said.

The curriculum was taught nationally and used to train trainers to work in their communities.

McIntosh considers herself an educator, but she has been recognized as a humanitarian by the YWCA of Tulsa as one of the 100 Women with Moxie.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joy Harjo was also recognized.

According to YWCA Director of Mission Impact Mana Tahaie, moxie conveys fearlessness and the courage to do what is right and the word was chosen because it embodied the mission of YWCA.

"Our mission it to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all," Tahie said.

The YWCA is one of the oldest women's organizations in the United States and this year, the Tulsa chapter has been established for 100 years.

"We wanted to take our 100th anniversary as an opportunity to honor women and women's leadership. So it made sense to us to honor our 100 years by selecting 100 women from the last 100 years," Tahaie said.

The 100 Women with Moxie event was held Dec. 2, 2014 at the Hilton Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, Okla.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that a large portion of formal Council business is addressed through the separate Council committee meetings.

He explained that the new Council representatives have been especially prudent about attending Council committee meetings other than their own and thus, much of the discussions and amendments regarding certain legislation are done before the regular or quarterly sessions.

"So when it comes to the floor, the legislation has already been viewed by a committee and other Council members in attendance so they know exactly what the contents of the proposed legislation is," Yahola said.

Yahola said that much of the legislation has been passed with citizens in mind.

"This Council has really been a good Council to work with in order to better suit the programs to the benefit of the citizens," Yahola said.

He stated that accomplishing this does not mean saying yes to everything.

"This is not a rubberstamp Council," Yahola said. "Each of them have their own opinion and they vote on what is beneficial for the program or for the Nation or the citizen."

For 2015, Yahola wished to remind the citizens about their part in this process.

"Looking at this coming year is the year of elections for all of Seat A...plus the election for the principal chief and second chief.

"I encourage you to register and take an interest in your government because your input helps the National Council and Executive Branch to see what direction they need to go in," Yahola said.

The Council office can be reached at: 918-758-1410.

EXPANSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

indirect jobs will be added in

"We have a preference of Creek employees. We do employ a lot of Creek citizens," Croft said.

Croft also said that Muscogee (Creek) citizens would see the results of the grand opening in another way.

"As soon as we open it will be an immediate impact on additional distributions to the Nation for all of the programs and the operation of the Nation," Crofts said.

Once complete, the facility will offer a 27-story hotel with 483 rooms and suites, retail stores and a fitness center and gift shop. A large pool deck and entertainment area will also be part of the expansion project.

Crofts also clarified that the RSC name will remain.

"The River Spirit name is not going away. It's not going to be entirely Margaritaville," Crofts said. "The casino concept is two casinos under one roof and is similar to the Flamingo in Las Vegas and Margaritaville."

Crofts believes that this will be a game changer for the tribe and the City of Tulsa.

"What we're doing is becoming a destination resort rather than just a large local casino," Crofts said.

A word search from the Myskoke Language Preservation Program: Months

RVFO CUSE — January HOTVLE HVSE — February TASAHCUCE — March TASAHCE RAKKO — April KE HVSE - May

KACOHVSE —June

HIYO RAKKO — August OTOWOSKUCE — September OTOWOSKV RAKKO — October EHOLE — November RVFO RAKKO — December

E W Ε C U C 0 S R S Ε Ε K V S O R Κ Ε Т Ε S 0 Н 0 E Ε 0 S S 0 С 0 S Ε R 0 R

Council employee recognized for years of service

Sewell reaches 20-year milestone

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Secretary Kristie Sewell was recognized during the quarterly session Oct. 25, 2014 for her 20 years of service to the

Sewell started working for the Council in the summer of 1993 through the MCN Summer Youth Program.

The program lasts eight-weeks and helps youth gain work experience and employability skills.

Sewell retuned the next summer and afterwards, continued her time with the Council through the work experience program.

Once the work program ended, Sewell

CITIZENS.

KRISTIE SEWELL

'IT KEEPS MY ATTENTION...THE was hired as COUNCIL, YOU CAN SEE THEM the recep-WORKING OUT THERE IN THE PUBLIC HELPING ALL THESE tionist for the Council. COUNCIL SECRETARY

"I just worked from sum-

mer youth and worked my way up. I gained a lot of experience," Sewell said.

While working as the recep-

tionist, Sewell started becoming

familiar with the legislation pro-

Sewell has held the positions of receptionist, legislative clerk, legislative research specialist

"The legislative research specialist was the biggest step for me," Sewell said.

and now the secretary.

The LRS prepares the legislation, reviews and researches it making sure the bill is all to-



Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Secretary, Kristie Sewell was recognized for her 20 years of service to the Council.

gether and ready to be presented

Sewell shared how the Council has kept her interest for so many years.

"You can see them working out there in the public helping all these citizens and helping better the Nation," Sewell said. "I think

> that's what grabs your attention because you're a part of that; you get to help do that."

Sewell also spoke about getting to know the Council representatives and how important it is for them all to work together.

"When you look at the agendas, you see the different laws that appropriates money and then the structure of the Council," Sewell said. "The way that we're set up; the way that we have to work closely together and the way that we all communicate."

Many Council representatives and employees have come and gone in the past 20 years but Sewell has and plans to remain.



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). \$200 compensation (\$100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is** conducting an IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in **Native Americans.**

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators: Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Muscogee (Creek) citizen shoots for success



Becky Yackley Photography

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kelly Boley competes in shooting competitions around the U.S.

Boley aims to go pro

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On an early morning, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kelly Boley makes her way to the range to prepare for the first stage of the upcoming competition.

She sights-in her rifle and walks the course; making a mental plan for her approach and when she will reload.

When the shooter before her takes their turn, Boley stuffs foam plugs in each ear and wraps muffs over her head and on the outside of her ears.

The course is reset for Boley and she makes her way to the starting point. She takes aim at the paper and steel targets, first with her Glock 34 9 mm, then with

her Benelli 12-gauge shotgun. "Shotgun is probably my fa-

her Adams Arms 223 cali-

ber AR-15 and finally with

rifle and I absolutely hate the pistol," Boley said. Most three-gun competitions are coed.

Boley said that she shoots better than some of the male shooters.

"It is a male dominated sport," Boley said. "We're trying to get more women into shooting sports."

Boley said that typically there are around 15 women shooters at a match. The last competition she went to in Atlanta registered over 200 women.

At the competition, Boley placed third in the women's tactical iron division; where no magnification is allowed on the rifle. Competitors are allowed to use iron sites or a zero magnification scope.

Next year, Boley's goal is to make the U.S. team for the 2015 Shotgun World Championship Sept. 13-20 in Agna, Italy.

In order to qualify for the championship, a shooter must go to qualification matches and be chosen to attend.

Boley would like to shoot in vorite. I'm really good with the pump shotgun division.

She would also like to be chosen for a pro tour. Boley said that she will find out around January 2015 if she has been selected.

Boley said she grew up hunting and became interested in shooting competitions later in life.

She watched videos on You-Tube and was inspired to start competing. Boley began signing up for matches all over the country.

"I was like, 'The only way to get better at this is to do it.' So I started doing it and I kind of got hooked," Boley said.

Boley said that she found the matches fun and family oriented. She has built friendships with her 'shooting family.'

"Originally, I just thought it would be fun and then I have two girls and I would like them to shoot and shoot competitively as another sport," Boley said.

Boley is supportive of Second Amendment rights and feels that individuals should be educated on guns and safety measures.

"The only way to teach your kids about guns is to get involved and take classes or to learn from somebody proper safety," Boley said.

Boley said that she feels she represents Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is proud of her heritage.

She wears beads and sports feathers on her rifle at competitions. Because there are very few Native Americans in the sport, Boley tries to be a good representative of Natives.

next Boley's competition is in February 2015. Boley is a member of the Bear Clan and Koweta Tribal Town. For more information about Kelly Boley, or to contact her

about becoming a sponsor, www.facebook.com/msnative3gunner, or www.instagram.com/msnative3gunner.

Muscogee (Creek) serviceman reflects on time at West Point



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Ware shares fond memories of Army, Navy game

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The cheers are simple. Midshipmen in black coats will scream for the team in navy; "Go Navy! Beat Army!" Cadets clad in grey yell back, "Go Army! Beat Navy!"

The tradition of the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) vs. U.S. Naval Academy football teams started in 1890.

The game typically marks the end of the college football season and is arguably the greatest rivalry in the sport.

Navy holds the lead with 58 wins, 49 losses and seven ties.

The 115th edition of the annual Army vs. Navy game was played Dec. 13 2014 at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, military, physical and emotion-

looked at the economics of it and that was kind of the best deal of all the tennis teams I could have played for."

Twenty-one years later, Ware is still serving with the Corps of Engineers at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Ware received a master's degree in engineering management from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Mo., and a master's degree in defense geographic information from Cranfield University in Shrivenham, England.

While at USMA, Ware said that it was a difficult transition adjusting to the regimented lifestyle.

"One of the things I learned is how to manage time a lot better," Ware said. "I learned there's a lot more time in the day if you kind of have a structure to how you put things together."

Ware said that juggling the

"YOU COULD'VE HEARD A PIN DROP OTHER THAN US TWO

SCREAMING."

- LT. COL. JARED WARE

For cadets and midshipmen, this is the day they have awaited

and USMA graduate Lt. Col. Jared Ware describes the atmosphere as "electric."

"I have never seen so many people excited about a sporting event, and it's really hard to kind of capture it unless you go," Ware said. "I tell people, 'if you could only go to one sporting event other than the Superbowl... Army/Navy offers everything and it's for the fans."

He recalls being part of the halftime show in 1991 and seeing Lee Greenwood sing 'God Bless the USA.'

During his senior or 'firstie' year, West Point won with a last second field goal.

"I was actually part of the media club at West Point so I got to sit in the press box for the game," Ware said. "It was great because Navy ran the press box that year so myself and my friend were the only two West Pointers in that entire press box, so you could've heard a pin drop other than us two screaming."

Ware received a bachelor's degree in geography with a minor in systems engineering in

USMA, he did not expect to have a career in the military.

"I actually went to the U.S. Military Academy to play tennis," Ware said. "So, I kind of

al components of West Point on top of college level courses made every day a challenge.

"I don't think there's any one Muscogee (Creek) citizen person who has all of those dimensions or that's good at all of them," Ware said. "I think that's what makes it difficult."

> He said he made many lifelong friends while at West Point.

> Ware said he has met few Native Americans in the military and even fewer who graduated from the military academies. He feels as if he represents not only the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, but also Native Ameri-

> Ware has served on the Corps of Engineers Tribal Policy Council.

> He believes the education he received from USMA fit well with how he grew up.

> "I think that a lot of the values that most Natives, particularly the Muscogees have translate pretty well," Ware said. "I felt like a lot of the things I grew up with in terms of values were pretty consistent."

> Ware encouraged citizens to apply to the military academies.

> "It is a world class education and it will be something that you will appreciate in the long term," Ware said.

As for the Army/Navy foot-When he chose to study at ball game, Ware said he has attended since graduation and found the ambience to be everything he remembered; a bitter rivalry that ends in comrad-

Citizen, humane society seeking dog house donors, recipients



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Timothy Barnett and his father Jackson Barnett (center) present their first donated dog house Dec. 17, 2014 to Susie Davis (left) and her dog Sampson with the help of Okmulgee Humane Society Shelter Manager Lyn Miles (right).

Barnett, OHS working to house dogs for winter

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "We have to preserve the tradition, the language and the care for mother earth and the animals."

Timothy Barnett shared his personal belief about Native American culture that led him and his father to look into building dog houses for those who cannot afford them.

"I knew the cold weather was coming and I have a really soft spot in my heart for animals," Barnett said.

They approached the Okmulgee Humane Society, which already had a program in place that had been experiencing limited success.

"We had another couple that were building dog houses for us," Lyn Miles, Okmulgee Humane Society Board President said. "They built the first two and then quit on us."

Barnett and his father have taken over construction of the homes, however OHS is still looking for recipients.

"We've only given out Muscogee (Creek) citizen three dog houses," Miles said.

"I KNEW THE COLD WEATHER WAS COMING AND I HAVE A REALLY SOFT SPOT IN MY HEART FOR ANIMALS.

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN TIMOTHY BARNETT

They are also looking for do-

"We've been asking for funding for it for about six months now and so far I've only had one person write us a check for \$300," Miles said. "We do have a couple of houses already. Some

Currently, OHS has about \$200 to provide materials for Barnett. "The idea was that we were going to spend our own money and just give it to them but she said they could maybe pay for

of them are houses we bought off the Internet and got them

cleaned up and ready to go."

the materials," Barnett said. OHS is nonprofit and will not receive assistance from the City of Okmulgee if funding for the program runs out.

"We just reach out to the community," Miles Miles has five dogs of her own and provides foscare for 18 more.

"For the people that can't do what I do, that's the ones we want to get the houses to," she said. According to Miles, the ideal maximum annual income for applicants is \$35,000.

"I would like this to be geared at our lower income people that really can't afford to go get one or have multiple children," Miles said. "It costs a lot to raise children so I know the income on somebody that's making like \$20,000 a year at the most and

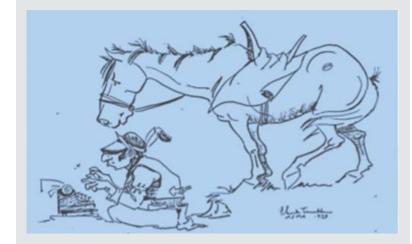
then they have three kids; I know that would be hard on them to buy dog houses."

Miles' feelings toward the program are similar to those that led Barnett to approach OHS with his idea.

"I drive down these streets and see so many dogs out there that are chained up and don't have a dog house and it just breaks my heart," she said.

To apply, donate or for more information about the program contact the Okmulgee Humane Society at: 918-759-2000.

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'



Same ol' plans, new museum idea, OKC drops R..skins

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Have you recovered from the holidays yet? Worked off all that 'penwy' (turkey) and mashed potatoes you ate? Watched all the 'B-list' football bowl games that our state teams were relegated to? Well, let's see a couple of things we have to look forward to for

Ready for another federal plan for dealing about problems facing Native Youth?

According to the White House: President Obama is expected to announce the launch of Generation Indigenous (Gen I) "a Native youth initiative focused on removing the barriers that stand between Native youth and their opportunity to succeed." (Catchy title, huh?)

Here's what is proposed:

- New Native Youth Community Projects, to improve the college-and-career readiness of Native children and youth;
- New National Tribal Youth Network will support leadership development, provide peer support through an interactive online portal;
- The release of the White House Native Youth Report that acknowledges past failures (my emphasis, of course) of federal policy on the education of Native students, explores the Indian project should be paid for breadth of the challenges facing Native children and makes recommendations for a path forward;
- The launch of the Cabinet Native Youth Listening Tour, which will begin next year as part of the President's call to hear directly from Native youth;
- The first ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering to engage hundreds of Native youth in a day-long convening in the summer of 2015.

Bless their hearts, I do appreciate the attention being given here but it's the same ol' story and the same ol' fixes being talked about.

This may be blasphemy, but I don't see much good that has ever come out of these kinds of ideas and meetings. Not that there hasn't been something developed for a few young people over the years but I think the feds and schools have always missed the boat.

It seems that these schemes never reach the kids that really need the help. Those at the top of the class or with 'connections' seem to get the limelight, get to take the trips or meet the top dogs.

The kids at the back of the class or too bashful to come forward or have problems in their lives that keep them from taking part—the ones who really need the attention—never get the chance.

President Obama's term will be up before too long and I'm wondering what, if anything

will happen to these plans when the next 'Wvcenv Mekko-President' takes over?

This, from an 'ex-kid' who was too bashful and sat at the back of the class.

OK, Indian kids—pull the ear buds out, put aside the electronic gizmos and find out something about the real word around you.

By the way, maybe the feds should start in their own house. National reports say the Bureau of Indian Education leader had been caught giving a big contract to his buddies at the company where he used to work in violation of federal ethics

Also BIE monitors have not done their job in 'watchdogging' and evaluating tribal contract schools. We're talking millions of bucks not being accounted for.

And...to top it off, they fired a 'whistleblower' that ratted them out.

It seems the Indian museum in Oklahoma City may not be dead after all?

Sources connected to the project wouldn't say much back in November and wanted to keep any schemes under wraps until January. One idea being kicked around is to use the 'tribal tax' money paid to the state from Indian tobacco sales and gaming fees to cover most of what is needed to finish the halfbuilt structure. Indian funds for a state idea.

A lot of critics moaned that an by Indian money. OK, here's one idea, but would it get through the Oklahoma legislature? If it does, that should shut them up.

Hey, did you see where the Oklahoma City School Board voted unanimously to get rid of the Capitol Hill schools R--skins mascot? The 'Native American Times' and other news source reported the action.

NAT reported, Dr. Star Yellowfish, the public school districts' Native American Student Services (NASS) administrator said, "We want the State of Oklahoma to take notice ... as we say this word is not OK. We care about our students and their learning environment and we will no longer use the racial slur... at one of our high schools."

I can just hear the wailing and gnashing of teeth of those who say the name is an 'honor' and 'tradition.'

Did you vote in the second chief election? A lot of candidates spoke about accountability for that office and this was your chance to express an opinion.

We've got the Big One coming up later. Let's see who shows up on those candidate lists and what they will be saying.

Need a good laugh after all this serious stuff? Check at the YouTube website for The 1491s. A real Indian comedy troupe doing material that would appeal to real "Indin's."

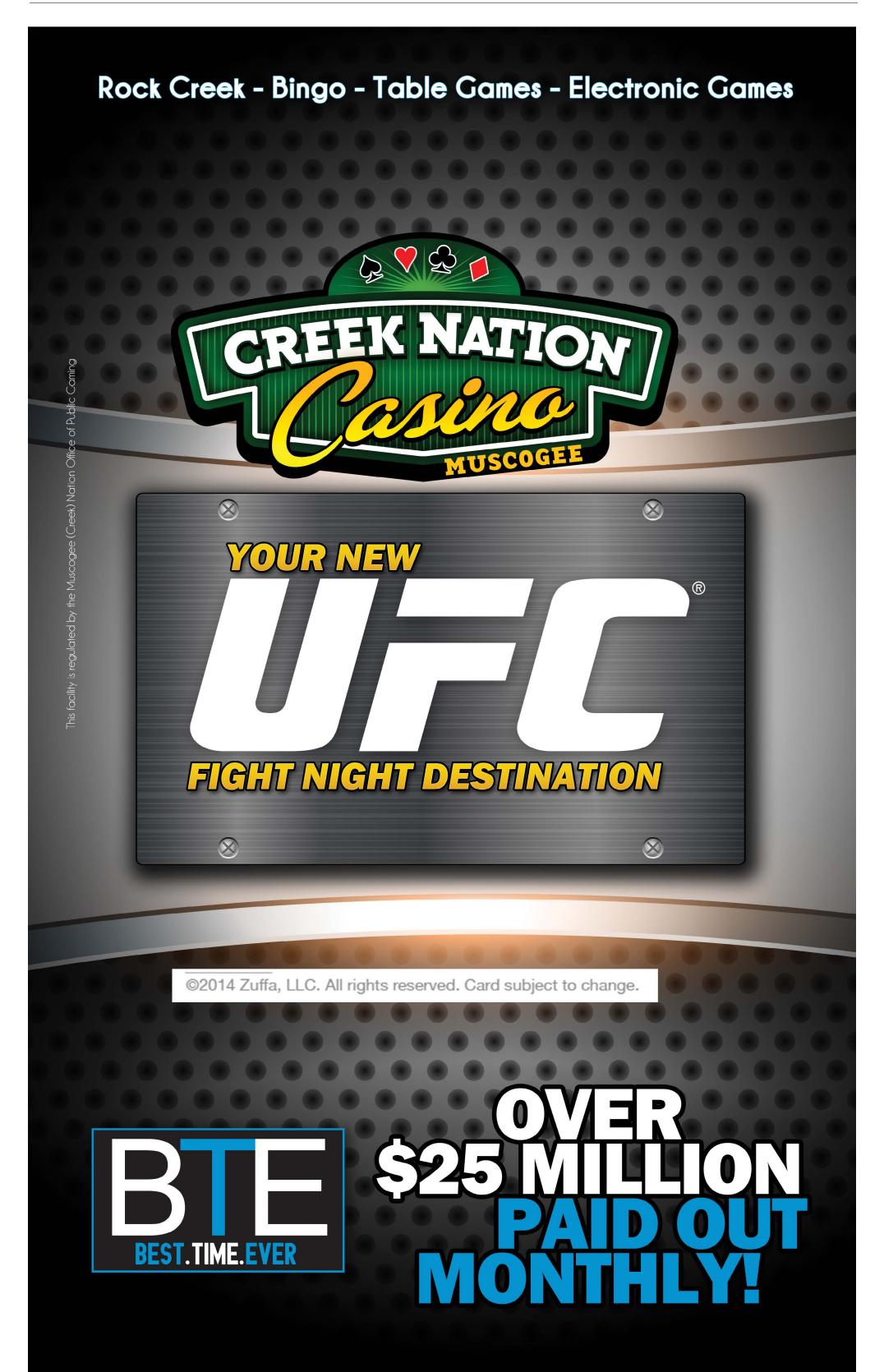
Happy 2015. Hvtvm Cerecehares — I will see you again.

Unofficial results of second chief special election

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage of votes
Herod Anderson	67	2.24 percent
A.D. Ellis	685	22.86 percent
Robert Deere Jr.	98	3.27 percent
Cherrah Giles	411	13.71 percent
Louis Hicks	638	21.29 percent
Selina Jayne-Dornan	415	12.85 percent
Floyd Jones	216	7.21 percent
Famous Marshall	264	8.81 percent
Kara Medina	203	6.77 percent







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Tulsa Shock youth basketball clinic held at Dome



MNN/Jessica McBride

WNBA guard Angel Goodrich, speaks to children Dec. 13, 2014 during the Tulsa Shock basketball clinic at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Goodrich, coaches teach youth fundamentals

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department and the Tulsa Shock combined efforts to hold a youth basketball clinic Dec. 13, 2014 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmul-

Nearly 100 children, ages 9-14 came for an afternoon filled with fun, excitement and an emphasis on learning.

Tulsa Shock Head Coach Fred Williams and guard Angel Goodrich, along with several other coaches taught basketball fundamentals to the children.

of the community so we want to be able to give back somehow," Williams said. "This is one of the ways to do that. "

TR Director William Lowe was excited about the turnout.

"It is always great to see the children come out," Lowe said. "The kids are making an effort and keeping themselves active."

Lowe stressed that the Mvskoke Dome is here to help keep citizens active and healthy.

"The youth want to make a difference," Lowe said. "They are making that effort to staying active and use the facility here and anytime that we have clinics such as this; they are taking that advantage to helping themselves to get better."

Goodrich, who has been "We always have the support around basketball her whole life,

taught the same fundamentals she learned to make herself bet-

"These kids were great. They were fun and wanted to learn everything that they could in the time that we were here," Goodrich said.

Goodrich echoed Lowe's sentiments about keeping children

"You see a lot of kids on the phone playing games and sitting around," Goodrich said. "It is hard to see that because you want them exercising and being active and electronics are taking a lot of their time."

After the clinic, an autograph session was held with Williams and Goodrich and the youth were presented with a free T-

Supreme Court chief justice nominated for another term



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Andrew Adams III was selected Dec. 12, 2014 to serve another one-year term with the court.

Adams details position responsibilities

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Andrew Adams III was selected Dec. 12, 2014 to serve another one-year term on the court.

"I am honored and humbled to serve as the chief justice of Court," Adams said.

Adams, a Muscogee (Creek) serve in January 2012.

Muscogee Nation Law."

The Supreme Court hears anywhere from 10-20 cases a year.

"It still scares and intimidates me... I take it very seriously because I know the decisions that I make affect the lives of people," Adams said.

Adams spoke about his decision to go into law.

"In high school, I thought about being a lawyer," Adams said. "I like the opportunity to assist people and tribal governthe Muscogee Nation Supreme ments with unique legal challenges they face."

Adams earned a law degree citizen, was first selected to from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 2006.

"THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE NATION I THIS CAPACITY IS AN HONOR AND IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO GIVE BACK."

- MCN SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE ANDREW ADAMS

Adams served as vice-chief Nov. 15, 2013.

According to Administrative confirmed as the chief justice dian law," Adams said. while in regular session Dec. 12, 2014.

"The opportunity to serve the Nation in this capacity is an honor and it's an opportunity for me to give back," Adams

"The main function of the Suis legal under Muscogee Nation law," Adams said. "We hear cases arising under the Muscogee cases that are appealable under Ground.

Adams is a founding member justice for the 2013 term and of Hogen Adams PLLC in St. was selected as chief justice Paul, Minn., a firm specializing in Indian law.

"I think I have a strong com-Order 14-01, Adams was remitment to the practice of In-

Adams advises clients on a wide range of legal matters involving federal Indian law, gaming law, litigation, internet gaming, contracts, business development and transactions.

Outside of being a justice and Adams spoke about his du- a lawyer, Adams enjoys spending time with his family.

"I'm a proud husband and fapreme Court is deciding what ther of three children," Adams said. "I just really enjoy the time I have with my wife and kids."

Adams is a member of the Nation Constitution...We hear Wind Clan and the Tallacivil, criminal and family type hasse Wykokaye Ceremonial

Veteran starts business through MCN SBDC



Shutterstock

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gary Luellen, a service connected disabled veteran, started Five Civilized Tribes Pest Control with help from the Mvskoke Loan Fund though the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Small Business Development Center.

Mvskoke Loan fund helps launch pest control service

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gary Luellen grew up around the pest control business.

"I've helped with all facets of termite and pest control," Luellen said.

Recently, he launched Five Civilized Tribes Pest Control with assistance from the Mvskoke Loan Fund through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Small Business Development Center.

"They are paying this loan back, but on the other hand; it's an opportunity that might not be available out there in the banking world right now because a lot of them don't like to do small loans," said SBDC Business Development Specialist John Blue.

According to Blue, Luellen is already well on his way among the other 17 loan recipients.

"I talked to him on Friday and his last appointment was at 4 p.m., so he's putting in the time and effort," Blue said.

Five Tribes is a full-service pest control operation.

"I'm licensed through the State of Oklahoma for general pest, structural pest and ornamental and turf.

"General pest is inside your home and outside such as setting traps. Structural pest is termites and ornamental and turf is, I can spray your yard for fleas, ticks and chiggers," Luellen said.

He gave insight into the toughest among these services.

"The most challenging jobs in this profession are bedbugs," Luellen said. "If those bedbugs get into even your shoelaces, they can travel across the country and still live."

On top of on-site service, Luellen believes educating his customers to handle infestation is also important.

"I let them know the different ways that they get in the house," Luellen said.

While the business is currently a one-man operation, Luellen hopes to expand by educating on his end as well.

"I had spoken with John Blue regarding an apprenticeship program hopefully to hire some of our Creek Nation young men or especially veterans who are looking for work," Luellen said.

Luellen, a service disabled veteran, also looks out for others through his business.

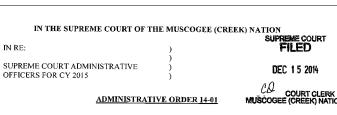
"If you have a person that is homebound and has a home healthcare nurse; well say a nurse went to a home that had bedbugs; then all of the sudden they are in their nurse bag and they bring it into another house.

"You let them know that it can cause illness, sores," Luellen said. This, Luellen said, is his top

"Service is always our number one goal for their protection," Luellen said. "They can call pretty much 24/7 if they got a problem that needs immediate attention, we can certainly dispatch to those places."

To contact Five Civilized Tribes Pest Control call: 918-845-1003 or email: gluellen@ cox.net.

"We cover all of northeast Oklahoma," Luellen said.



While in regular session on December 12, 2014, in accordance with Article VII, § 4, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, the Court selected a Chief Justice to serve as the Court's administrative officer for calendar year 2015. Justice Andrew Adams III was unanimously selected by the participating Justices to serve a one-year term as Chief Justice

In accordance with long-standing custom, the Court also selected on December 12, 2014 a Vice-Chief Justice for calendar year 2015. Justice George Thompson Jr. was unanimously selected by the participating Justices to serve a one-year term as Vice-Chief Justice commencing on January 1, 2015.

All Justices concur

DELIVERED AND FILED: December 15, 2014



CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

I hereby certify that on December 15, 2014, a true and correct converted to the feet. delivered to the following Muscogee (Creek) Nation government officials: Principal Chief, Office of Second Chief, National Council members, District Court judges, Attorney General, and Human Resources. A true and correct copy of the foregoing Administrative Order was also e-mailed to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer on December 15, 2014.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

NANCY DUKE



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Nancy was born Dec. 6, 1945 to Nancy Harjo-Buster and joined her family Nov. 27, 2014.

She received her GED in 1984 and worked in the Okmulgee and Bixby, Okla., areas as a waitress at Coleman's Restaurant and nurse aide at Bixby and Highland Nursing Homes.

She loved blue carnations and going to the casino. She was baptized and joined the Wewoka Indian United Methodist Church in October 2014.

She is preceded in death by her: mother; stepfather, John Buster; grandparents, Willie and Hettie Harjo; husbands, Walter Duke and Ira Smith; sister, Addie Sue Gerl; niece, Kathryn Gerl; aunts and uncles, Hepsey Harjo-Lowe, Raymond Harjo and Daniel Harjo.

Nancy is survived by: daughter, Monica Cully (John Harjo); granddaughters, Mahayah Cully and Alana Harjo; sister, Michelle Buster (Levi Tilley, Sr.); niece and nephews, Ashley Cruz, Christopher Harjo, Josep Cruz, Daniel Cully, Levi Tilley Jr., Mike Hollis along with cousins and friends.

Memorial Services and Interment will be held 2 p.m., Jan. 3, 2015 at the Wewoka Indian Methodist Church in Yeager, Okla., with Revs. Joe Lowe Jr. and Rick Deer officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Ok-

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.

LYDIA HARJO



SHAWNEE, Okla. — Lydia Chupco-Harjo, 94, passed away Sept. 26, 2014 in Shawnee. She was born Jan. 22, 1920 in Hughes County to Toney Chupco and Mary Larney-Chupco.

She graduated from Chilocco Indian School. Lydia had four children, Gerald, Wilford, Janice, and Victor. She made their home in Shawnee. She worked for Gordon Cooper Vocational Technology Center in Shawnee until her retirement.

Lydia was a member of Kaney Chapel United Methodist Church in Bowlegs, Okla., which was founded her father

Rev. Toney Chupco and uncle Rev. James Chupco. She was active in a variety of church activi-

She loved the Lord and was a devoted and faithful servant. She was made lay speaker at the United Methodist Conference in 1967. Speaking and singing in her Native tongue brought her much pleasure and was important to her. Sewing was more than just a hobby; she took great pride in her creations. Caring for her family was important to Lydia and she always had a warm and loving home for them. She loved her grandchildren and enjoyed being with them and watching them play and grow up.

She is preceded in death by her: parents; children, Gerald Wayne Harjo and Wilford Harjo; great-grandson, Matai Lowe; siblings, Katie Larney, Sam Chupco, Nora Burris, Jennie Leitka and Lewis Chupco and son-in-law Dwayne Lowe.

Lydia is survived by her: daughter, Janice Lowe of Wetumka, Okla.; son, Victor Harjo Sr. and Sharon of Shawnee; grandchildren, Leslie Lowe, Angie Lowe, Stephanie Rogers and Dylan, Pacer Lowe and Brandy, Victor Harjo Jr., Brittany Harjo, Nicholas Harjo and

Rhiannon Bruner and Justin; 11 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews whom she loved very much as well as a host of extended family and friends.

Wake services were held Sept. 29, 2014 at Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel in Holdenville, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 30, 2014 at Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel in Holdenville with Rev. Joe Lowe Jr. officiating and assisted by Rev. Jerry Baker, Rev. Sammy Chupco and Rev. Curtis Kinney.

Pallbearers are: Nick Harjo, Devin Mixon, Pacer Lowe, Justin Bruner, Anson Yahola, Maurice Yahola, Ky Lowe and Mike Larney.

Honorary bearers are: Victor Harjo Jr., Dean Baker, Dennis Baker, Jake Larney, Jeff Yahola, and Ethan Rogers.

Interment followed at the Yeager Cemetery in Yeager, Okla. Services are under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville.

ROMAN HARJO



TULSA, Okla. — Roman Randall Harjo Sr., a resident of Okmulgee, Okla., passed away Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 in Tulsa at the age of 58. Roman was born March 2, 1956 in Talihina, Okla.

At an early age, Roman was warmly welcomed into the family of Isly and Cheparney Harjo, his adoptive parents. Roman grew up in the Henryetta, Okla., area. He attended grade school at St. Michaels School in Henryetta and also later attended Henryetta Public Schools.

After his high school years, Roman also attended Okmulgee Tech where he learned the automotive bodywork trade. Roman was a member of the Hickory Ground #1 church and served as a layperson within his own church and other Indian churches in the area as well.

Roman worked for several years as a security guard for Okmulgee High School and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department.

Roman loved professional wrestling, gardening and spending time with his pet dogs. Roman married the love of his life, Mahalia Buckley Sept. 24, 1977 in Wetumka, Okla. From that union, they were blessed with the birth of their son, Roman Randall Harjo Jr.

He is preceded in death by: both of his adoptive parents, Isly and Cheparney Harjo.

Roman is survived by his: wife, Mahalia of the home; son, Roman Harjo Jr. of Okmulgee; sister, Rebecca Staten of Claremore, Okla.; aunt, Romona Randall of Claremore and by his maternal grandparents, Annie and Roman Randall of Okemah, Okla.; as well as other extended family and many good friends.

Viewing for Roman was held at Integrity Funeral Service Dec. 9 and wake service was held that evening at Hickory Ground #1.

A funeral service for Roman was held Dec. 10 at Hickory Ground #1 with Revs. Mitchell Taylor, Wallace Gambler Jr. and Woody Fields officiating. Interment will followed immediately at Westlawn Cemetery in Henryetta under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers are: Roman Harjo Jr., Jimmy Staten and Ryan C. Buckley. Mitchell Taylor serves as an honorary pallbearer.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT FILED

IN THE MATTER OF: Case No 11 1 2014 104 PM 3 38

A.B.J., DOB: 05/24/14 NUSCOSET (DREEK) NATION Alleged Deprived Child. COURT CLERK

Tony Dean Taylor/Unknown Father

NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 6TII day of MARCH, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

OKMULGEE DISTRICT IN THE MATTER OF: Case No. JV-2014-04 A.B.J., DOB: 05/24/14 Alleged Deprived Child. JUVENILE SUMMONS THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Unknown Father, Natural Father to A.B.J

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of said child, you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petitic

YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the 6^{TH} day of MARCH 2015 at the hour of 9:00 A.M. for an Adjudication Hearing and to there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition.

You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you.

IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST.

Issued this // day of December 2014.



Tourism partners with Reintegration for toy drive



May 15 — May 7

June 1 — May 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism & Recreation Department collected toys along with coats and blankets during their drive Dec. 3, 2014 to help serve as a collection site for the MCN Reintegration Department Holiday Toy Drive.

RIP received the toys Dec. 4 from TR at the Mvskoke Dome building. Reintegration will donate them to children of the incarcerated first and the remaining toys will be given to other children in need.

NATIVE BEAUTY PAG-**EANT/TALENT SHOW SET** FOR JAN. 30-31, 2015

GLENPOOL, Okla. — A Native beauty pageant is set for Jan. 30, 2015 and a Native talent show is set for Jan. 31, 2015 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool.

For more information visit: www.rosieeliteexpos.com call: 918-857-6630.

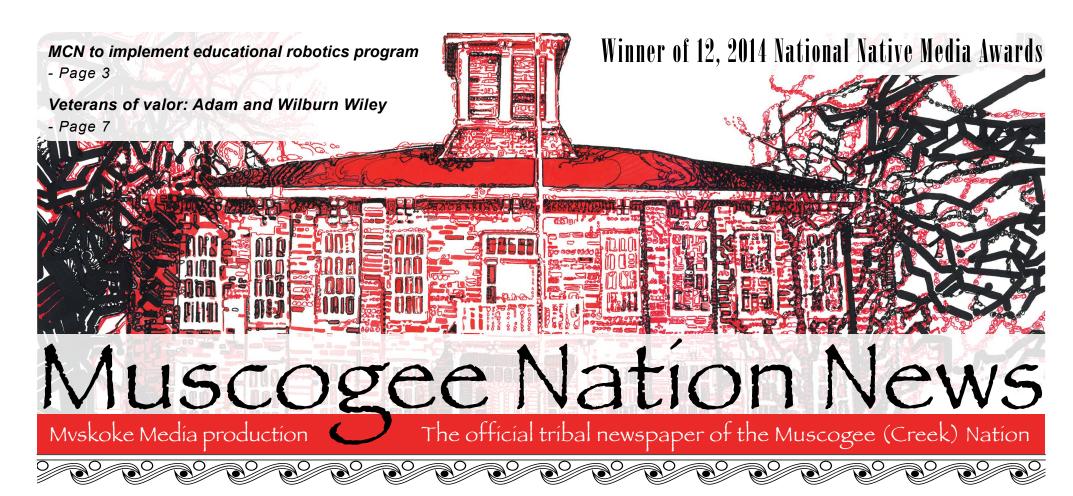


LIST OF UPCOMING May 1 — April 23 MNN DEADLINES

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

June 15 — June 8 Jan. 15 — Jan. 7 July 1 — June 22

Feb. 1 — Jan. 23 July 15 — July 7 Feb. 15 — Feb. 6 Aug. 1 — July 24 March 1 — Feb. 20 Aug. 15 — Aug. 7 Sept. 1 — Aug. 24 March 15 — March 6 Sept. 15 — Sept. 8 April 1 — March 25 April 15 — April 7 Oct. 1 — Sept. 24



Tiger examines challenges, successes of 2014

Principal chief looks back on 2014, ahead to 2015

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In an interview with 'Mvskoke Radio' Radio Specialist Gary Fife, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger outlined some of the MCN's challenges and successes in 2014 and what he predicts these will be in 2015.

MR: Let's start out on the bright side. Can you give us a rundown of this year?

I think one of the more positive things we've seen this last year certainly has been Margaritaville.

Of course we were stalemated for a while because of the 404 permit that we needed from the Army Corps of Engineers. Working through EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), Army Corps of Engineers, we were able to get

Basically I wanted to exercise our sovereignty by asking for a tribal consultation. Because in executive orders that President



MNN File Photo

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave a year-in-review for MCN in 2014 and some of his predictions for 2015.

wanted all the federal agencies to be able to work on a governmentto-government basis with the tribes.

In addition to that, funding for such a project was something that we worked through with our oversight administration at the gaming facility in Tulsa. We feel like we got one of the best financing of any project throughout Indian Country when it comes to gaming.

We acquired the hospital in Obama signed in the past, he Okmulgee that was on the verge

of closing its doors. We felt that if that facility's doors closed, that it would be devastating because our tribal members were using that.

So we offered a proposal to the Okmulgee Hospital Authority Board that we would assume all of their debt, which we did; a little over \$5 million and that was just a little over a year ago. We've been able to reduce that debt from a little over \$5 million to now less than \$100,000.

The George Nigh Physical Rehabilitation Center is going

We've had some new initiatives in other program areas. The Literacy Program is succeeding in the public school sector within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction.

We're looking at even going up to a higher level for some kind of STEM (Science, Technology and Math) for our students throughout Creek Nation.

We're looking at for the future,

Tiger - 2

President introduces educational initiative for Indian Country

GII aims to further tribal collegiate endeavors

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. President Barack Obama Generation announced the Dec. Indigenous Initiative 3, 2014, at the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. The initiative was based on information collected in the 2014 Native Youth Report.

GII is designed to improve American college Native readiness and open more opportunities by bolstering tribal education programs. The report lists poverty, low graduation rates and high suicide rates as opportunity gaps.

The report also acknowledges destructive and detrimental long-term effects of past educational policies specifically during the boarding school era.



President Barack Obama announced the Generation Indigenous Initiative Dec. 3, 2014 during the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. The initiative seeks to improve college preparedness for Native Americans.

"These institutions usurped Indian parenting responsibilities, tore apart tribal kinship networks and destroyed the fabric of Indian communities," the NYR

The GII hopes to correct the mistakes of the past by preparing the future generations.

According to the report, 39 percent of the Native population is under 24-years-of-age and 22 percent of Natives ages 25 and older have not completed high school.

"This crisis has grave consequences for Native Nations, who need an educated citizenry to lead their governments, develop reservation economies, contribute to the social wellbeing of Native communities and sustain Indian cultures," the NYR stated.

Due to the success of tribally designed programs, GII plans to continue supporting these programs and increase funding.

According to a Dec. 3, 2014 Associated Press release, although a dollar amount has not been announced, the money will come from existing resources as well as nonprofit and philanthropic organizations.

Under GII, the U.S. Department of Education Demonstration Grants Program will fund the Native Youth Community Projects. This program will incorporate language and cultural aspects to improve career and college preparedness.

Another GII program is the

Initiative - 5

Jan. 15, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 2 "Rvfo Cuse" Winter's Younger Brother



Last Council session of 2014 held

SIPs plant transferred to OneFire

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. - A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Dec. 20 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 14-182 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-190 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a practicum site affiliation agreement between MCN and the University of Oklahoma. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed
- TR 14-191 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease agreement with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-192 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a clinical rotation agreement between MCN and Tulsa Community College. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-193 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of deaccession and receipt and release with the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History for the receipt of human remains and funerary objects affiliated with MCN. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Council ~ 3



MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

MANAGER

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

MCN collection on display at Heard Museum



MNN/Chelsie Rich

Several Muscogee (Creek) artifacts are on display as part of the Beautiful Games: American Indian Sport and Art exhibit at the Heard Museum in Phoenix.

Exhibit showcases sports through art

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

PHOENIX — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has made its presence known at the Heard Museum in Phoenix where several of the Nation's artifacts are part of the Beautiful Games: American Indian Sport and Art Eexhibit on display Dec. 19, 2014-Nov. 29, 2015.

To some of the citizens of Phoenix, the Heard Museum is considered the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian of the southwestern United States.

According to the Heard Museum website, sports have played a pivotal role in American Indian tribal communities. Stickball, lacrosse, surfing and running are some of the sports that American Indians have been playing before they evolved into what they are to-

"This exhibit is about the spirit of competition through our sports," Director and CEO of the Heard Museum James Pepper Henry said. "It also is displaying the influence that the American Indians has on sports that we play today and how sports has impacted our American Indian communities."

Jim Thorpe, considered one of the most versatile athletes of modern sports, is one of the

athletes that are featured.

Thorpe won gold medals for the pentathlon and decathlon during the 1912 Olympic Games, played American football (collegiate and professional) and also played professional baseball and basketball. Those medals are on display at the ex-

Oglala Sioux citizen and Mvskoke Hall of Fame inductee Billy Mills is also featured. Mills is known for winning the men's 10,000 meters gold medal at the 1964 Olympics Games in Tokyo, Japan.

His victory is considered one of the greatest Olympic upsets of all time. Mills was a speaker at an event held for the opening of the exhibit.

"I felt that moment was a gift to me," Mills said. "I choreographed and orchestrated it. I made the commitment to give back. One of the ways is to promote global unity and taking an anti-hate stance."

The Heard Museum also held a public showing of the movie based on Mills historical feat called, 'Running Brave.'

Some of the MCN Council House collection artifacts on display are a Solomon Mc-Combs painting of a stickball game from 1962 and a pair of stickball ballsticks.

MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department Interim Director Justin Giles also contributed a jersey from his days of playing lacrosse with the Iroquois Nationals and a lacrosse

"Collaboration with a world renowned institution such as the

Heard Museum is an honor in itself," Giles said. "We want to show people our collection, our history in sports and this is a great way to do it at this exhibit."

Pepper Henry spoke about why this exhibit is important to American Indian communities and the general public

"This exhibit not only shows what our tribes have done with sports but also it shows an artistic display of what sports is," Pepper Henry said. "Both sports and art really transcends countries, languages and cultural barriers."

Ralph Vernacchia of Scottsdale, Ariz., was at the exhibit and was also able to learn about what other sports American Indian tribes play and how they contributed to modern so-

"I have always been interested in the heritage of Native American sports," Vernacchia said. "It is great to see Jim Thorpe's medals and Billy Mills here tonight."

Vernacchia was intrigued by the McCombs' painting and the beauty and brutality the sport displayed.

"You cannot describe the words when you see this painting," Vernacchia said. "To see this painting and only imagined what these men went through. It helped settle a lot of things that could have turned into war. I know these men of past and today still put their heart and soul into this game and that is what makes this game great."

TIGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

having some kind of career services center that is greatly needed at MCN.

Our OneFire Holding Company is turning things around. We're looking forward to some great things coming out of there. They've already started the process of acquiring or being on an equity basis with some economic development and business ventures.

Our Small Business Development Center is going really good to where we can provide technical assistance for individually owned business by our tribal members. As they're succeeding, they are able to hire more tribal citizens for their companies.

Our CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution), we just got an \$800,000 grant not to long ago to where loans can now be provided to our tribal members that are wanting to go into business.

It's all about economics Gary; that allows for things to happen at Creek Nation.

It was a good year again for budget hearings. Where the National Council and administration were able to sit across the table from each other and negotiate some of the things

We feel very good about the budget. It's been a really good

We have a new hospital that is going to be built as well as a new clinic in Eufaula. We took the initiative to go after a new clinic in the Sapulpa area that will be bigger than the new hospital that is being built in Okemah.

MR: One of the concerns we heard from people in the Okmulgee area is that when the tribe took over, then it was Indians only. Has that been resolved?

That has never been the case and I think what happened was that there was an individual that was not necessarily denied service but they took it in that manner.

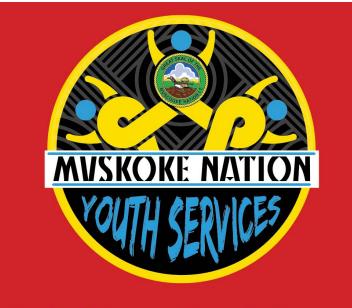
When we first heard about it, we certainly wanted to make a public statement that, that hospital is for anyone. I believe we were able to put a good PR effort in that to help the community feel at ease that they are certainly welcome to use that facility.

One of the things we're doing now is doing surgeries here locally instead of having to ship those services out. In addition to that, we're almost finished with our MRI project.

That service is very expensive and we've had to contract those things out and now we can keep that money here in the health setting and be able to turn that money over for maybe some other services.

One of the things I stressed coming in, was the ability of the Nation to be able to turn that dollar over. I believe we're doing that in healthcare. We're also seeing that happen in other areas

MR: Among those areas were



The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services program is currently conducting a survey which will be used to help determine the needs of Muscogee youth ages 12-24 and to design a program to meet those needs.

Mvskoke youth ages 12 and up and adults are encouraged to complete the survey by phone Monday through Friday at 918-549-2557 or 800-482-1979 or online at: http://tinyurl.com/MCNYouthServices. Surveys will also be made available in hard copy if requested. Surveys will also be made available during the January 31st National Council Meeting.

A \$25 Gift card will be awarded to one adult and one youth who complete the survey by January 31st.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- TR 14-195 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement for a wireless communications tower at River Spirit Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which was postponed until the January session.
- TR 14-197 Authorizing the principal chief to enter into a referenced funding agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs for fiscal year 2015. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-200 Authorizing Onefire Holding Company to execute a lease agreement for the purpose of constructing an entertainment facility at the RiverWalk business development. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 9-5 with Reps. David Hill, Mitch Jack, David Nichols, Darrell Proctor and Lucian Tiger voting against it.
- TR 14-201 Authorizing GOAB to execute an engagement letter with Campbell and Tiger PLLC. Hill and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1 with Barnett voting against it.
- TR 14-202 Confirming the nomination of Brenda Golden as ambassador for



A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Dec. 20, 2014 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

MCN to the U.N. working on implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 13-1, with Barnett voting against it.

- NCA 14-189 Authorizing a \$2,000 donation to Henryetta Public Schools. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Deere and Jennings voting against it.
- NCA 14-190 Authorizing a \$232 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-193 Authorizing a \$94,050 special appropriation to the Bristow Indian

Community. Hill sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

- NCA 14-196 Appropriating \$440,000 to be used toward the purchase of real property located in Okmulgee County. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-201 Authorizing a \$2,000 donation to Paden Public Schools. Rep. Frank Coachman and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-202 Authorizing a \$1,000 donation to the California Muscogee (Creek) Association. Rep. Shirlene Ade, Hill and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed

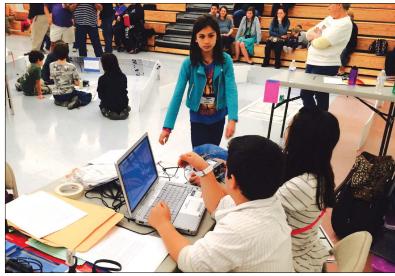
robots perform tasks preprogrammed using computer code rather than remotes. "Writing code is a real important skill that kids need and now with engineering design included in the standards in Tulsa; teachers have to do it in the classroom so we've coupled the two

- NCA 14-203 Appropriating \$94,353 to implement the Junior Botball Program to be administered by the Department of Education and Training. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-205 Authorizing a \$1,340 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Barnett and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-2 with Jack and Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 14-206 Authorizing the expenditure of \$73,000 from the U.S. DOI to the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

- NCA 14-207 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 18, Chapter 4, Section 4-107 B. 7 entitled, "Purpose and Authority of the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-208 Authorizing a \$1,277.50 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-209 Authorizing a \$50,000 supplemental appropriation to the Johnson O'Malley Program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-210 Authorizing a \$3,499.99 donation to the Warrior Cemetery Organization. Proctor and Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-211 Authorizing a \$177,408 appropriation to fund the costs associated with replacing the tribal complex marquee. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 14-212 Amending NCA 14-195 (A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to provide financial assistance to Muscogee (Creek) traditional churches in purchasing propane.). Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Hufft was absent.

MCN to implement robotics educational program



Submission

The Botball Educational Robotics Program engages middle and high school aged students in a team-oriented robotics competition.

Botball aimed at enhancing student STEM training

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. Many of us have seen the robot battles on TV where operators face one another in a competition to destroy the other contender's machine.

Now, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host a similar, educational and less aggressive nonprofit program known as Botball for fifth graders at schools within the tribal jurisdiction to help motivate them to advance in the science, technology, engineering and math fields.

"Most of the kids aren't ready for the STEM when they graduate high school. They go into college and they're not STEM ready. We're missing out on big bucks.

"Oklahoma imports a lot of our STEM employees that we could be hiring right here but the kids aren't ready because we're not getting them ready," said MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett.

According to: www.stemedcoalition.org, data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that employment in occupations relating to STEM is projected to grow to more than

together," said Steve Goodgame, Executive Director of the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics.

9 million between 2012-2022.

passed NCA 14-203 during the

Dec. 20 Council regular ses-

sion 14-0, appropriating \$94,353

to implement the Junior Bot-

ball program to be adminis-

tered by the MCN Department

of Education and Training.

teams in our boundaries that are

familiar with it so we'll prob-

ably try to incorporate them

in the program," Barnett said.

that about half of the appropria-

tion will go toward a dedicated

Botball representative who

will provide consultation for

teachers working with children

participating in the program.

erably Muscogee (Creek) but

at least Native American and

another parameter that we're

adding is that the teams are at

least 50 percent female because

females are underrepresented in

the STEM world," Barnett said.

for 40 teams and scholarship

20 teams out of this group.

kits. We'll provide professional

development and all the schools

will have to do is come up with

the registration fee for the com-

petition at the end," Barnett said.

Unlike the battles, Botball

"Meaning we will buy the robot

professional

MCN will help provide this

development

"The students would be pref-

Barnett, the bill's sponsor, said

"We already have three or four

The MCN National Council

According to Goodgame, Botball prepares students for the job market even before college.

"So when you start these kids early and get them on the right path, actually coming out of high school they have a skill that they can market," Goodgame said. Starting out, the gram will target students middle before school.

"We're targeting fifth graders initially and then we'll just kind of expand from there," Barnett said.

She gave further insight into the timetable and requirements.

"The schools are going to have to provide at least one, preferably two teachers that will volunteer their time, work with the kids and it'll take roughly three to four weeks to get them up to speed to start working with the kids.

"Then we'll cut them loose with the kids after that. So from the time the legislation gets passed...we'll have robots in the kids' hands in about six to eight weeks," Barnett said. Barnett is pleased with the

progress MCN has made in the area of education.

"I'm excited about the literacy program and I'm excited about the possibility of this STEM initiative because this is the first time that we have actually implemented something at the schools to help the kids achieve those milestones to advance the programs we already offer," Barnett said.

For more information about Botball visit: www.botball. org or contact the MCN Department of Education and 918-732-7727. Training at:

New tribal assistant attorneys announced



Native News Today

U.S. Attorney reaches out to Indian Country

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. -The U.S. Attorney for the Northern continues to work closely with District of Oklahoma Danny Williams Sr. announced Dec. 10 that two tribal special assistant hensive and quality justice to U.S. attorneys are joining his of- Indian Country," Williams said. fice in an effort to combat issues in tribal communities.

women.

Williams said that his office hopes to expand the Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Program to work with other tribal prosecutors.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office tribal communities to augment our ability to provide compre-"It is our hope the Tribal SAU-SA Program will increase com-"Indian Country is a signifi- munication and coordination cant priority and my office is among federal, tribal and local

"IT IS OUR HOPE THE TRIBAL SAUSA PROGRAM WILL INCREASE COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL, TRIBAL AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT."

- U.S. ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA DANNY WILLIAMS SR.

committed to building and sus- law enforcement." taining safe tribal communities in the Northern District," Williams said.

Osage Nation Attorney General Jeff Jones and Cherokee Nation Deputy Attorney General most states. Sarah Hill will work with assisern District's Indian Country erally recognized tribes. Prosecution Unit.

trafficking to violence against coordinate efforts.

According to the release, the U.S. Department of Justice has primary jurisdiction over a majority of felonies that occur on trust and restricted lands in

The Northern District of tant U.S. attorneys in the North- Oklahoma encompasses 13 fed-

Tribes in the area have the Jones and Hill will have the ability to contact the U.S. Atability to prosecute all crimes torney's Office for the Northern that occur in Indian Country District of Oklahoma Tribal in the federal court, from drug Liaison R. Trent Shores to help

'Native News Today' adds new staff, capabilities



MNN/Sterling Cosper 'Native News Today' Multimedia Supervisor Jason Salsman and co-host Neely Tsoodle film an episode of NNT Dec. 17, 2014 at the studio in

Tsoodle gives insight on adjustment period,

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

Okmulgee, Okla.

looks ahead

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Native News Today' television program, based out of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Myskoke Media Department, continues to change with the recent departure of Multimedia Specialist Tyler Roberds and addition of co-host Neely Tsoodle.

"It was really, really tough to lose Tyler of course; not only the personal aspect because we had a great relationship but also professionally," said Multimedia Producer Jason Salsman. "In a small area like this, it's very, very tough to find people that are in visual storytelling and video production but are good at it."

After five years hiatus from the business, Tsoodle joins NNT with a combined experience of 20 years in media.

"It feels really good," Tsoodle said. "I have to get back into the groove of everything learning the new software and editing. It's a lot easier with the new equipment but I'm still learning."

While she is catching up on the technical end, Tsoodle said her heart has always been and still lies with being out among the people. "I always enjoyed telling a

person's story and being the one that was out in the field getting that story and also enterprising and investigating; coming up with your leads, connections and all that," Tsoodle said.

Tsoodle had a hard time pursing this passion where she began in Lawton, Okla.

"In southwest Oklahoma, it is saturated with tribes down there and when I started knocking on the doors of all the tribes because I felt their stories needed to be told; it was a hard sell to my producers to get them to cover," she said.

After she got the station on board, the tribes challenge. another

"The tribes weren't really accepting then," Tsoodle said. "They were very closed and thought it was disrespectful for me to come and knock wanting to cover an election or even a human interest story."

Eventually, Tsoodle overcame this obstacle and became the Native news beat reporter, gaining a background she now adds to NNT.

"That experience I wanted to bring here to do the same thing," she said. "Not just our stories but other tribal stories and that's why we're called 'Native News Today.' "

Tsoodle is grateful to Salsman for helping her transition onto the show.

"I found that we had instant chemistry and we can make jokes at each other," she said. "We laugh at our mistakes and I think we pulled it off and things are going smooth. He made it easy for me to jump in there and get right back in." Salsman shared

"We had to come together pretty quickly but now we've got it rolling," Salsman said. "I think the first episode, she had a lot of nerves. For me, it was business as usual but I wanted her to be comfortable and come across well and the show to look good. To her

sentiment.

similar

credit, it's always looked good." In the future, Tsoodle hopes to do more feature stories that focus on citizens specifically.

"Right now, we're doing all these events."

Salsman also has goals for Tsoodle.

"My vision for her is to become a correspondent as well as an anchor in the studio," Salsman said. "She's out in the community finding your story and that will allow me to take a passion that I have, which is getting really good shots and good visual story telling."

Broadcast Specialist rad Moore said NNT will be adding a live broadcast feature to their YouTube channel and that NNT subscribers will be able to get notifications when these broadcasts happen.

"In the future, we're going to be doing a lot of HD streaming to the YouTube channel, a lot of events," Moore said.

Apart from the YT channel, NNT is broadcast every Saturday on Tulsa CW at 1 p.m. and now on Oklahoma City KSBI, Sunday at 12 p.m. NNT can be found on Facebook at: www.facebook. com/NativeNewsCW19 Twitter: @NativeNewsGuys.

To share a story idea or contact NNT call Salsman at: 918-732-7644 or email: jsalsman@mcn-nsn.gov.

Who represents you: Dan Kirby



Submission

Citizen attributes heritage, upbringing to legislative decisions

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Oklahoma State Rep. Dan Kirby (R) grew up passing the pigskin and taking strikes at the punching bag in Eufaula, Okla.

growing up. Those were my two sports," Kirby said. "Those have been my passions as far as sports goes throughout my whole life." Kirby remembers his boxing

record in high school was 35-5.

12 years ago so that he could have a flexible position to pair along with being a single dad and now a state representative.

Kirby, who is also Cherokee, has two daughters and two grandchildren.

"It's the same thing that you hear from everybody; you love them to death and then spoil them and get them all riled up and then you give them back to their momma," Kirby said.

Kirby attributes his interest in politics to attending school with and befriending J.C. Watts.

"He kind of got me involved. It was interesting," Kirby said. "I ran for an office back in 1992 and I lost; and then after that I gave it up and decided to concentrate on raising my kids."

Kirby said that in 2009 when his children were grown, he "got the bug again" and decided to give his political aspirations another go around.

At times, Kirby sees the political life as unrewarding but rec-"I played football and I boxed ognizes the results of his efforts.

In April 2013, Kirby championed legislation to mandate that hospitals screen newborns for critical congenital heart defects.

"That gives you a good feeling when you can pass a bill His passion has developed that helps save lives, especially into a job with the Muscogee young ones," Kirby said.

"THAT GIVES YOU A GOOD FEELING WHEN YOU CAN PASS A BILL THAT HELPS SAVE LIVES, ESPECIALLY YOUNG ONES."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN AND OKLAHOMA STATE REP. DAN KIRBY

(Creek) Nation.

Athletic Commission. In this CCHD screening law. position, he oversees and reguarts events hosted by MCN.

After high school, he left Eu-Paul, Minn.

to a Pentecostal church in Eufaula," Kirby said. "My mother was a minister; my grandmother and I have a couple of uncles in the ministry."

A jack-of-all-trades, Kirby's career can be summed up as a dress issues.

of paved the way for me to become a salesperson," Kirby said.

Kirby wanted to have enough sold computers for 13 years.

came a real estate agent around gee Tribal Town.

Kirby was humbled by a pedi-Kirby currently serves as the atric heart doctor who thanked executive director of the MCN him for his support of the

He attributes his Native lates boxing and mixed martial American heritage to his approach to legislation.

"Being a Native American, I faula and received a Bachelor of think you always stick to your Science in theology from Ap- roots," Kirby said. "I try to do ostolic Bible Institute near St. my best in sticking to my roots and my morals and I try to make "I was raised in a Pentecostal the best decisions that I possibly environment. My parents went can based upon my upbringing and my background."

> For the last four years, Kirby has been the co-chairman of the Native American Caucus. In this position, he is able to meet with tribal leaders to help ad-

When faced with a decision, "I guess the ministry and go- Kirby said that he tries to look ing to a school of theology kind at each individual issue and vote for legislation based on what he believes is good for everyone.

Kirby is the son of Clarence money to raise a family, so he Kirby and the late Patricia Cagle Kirby of Eufaula. He is a mem-He switched sales jobs and be- ber of the Bear Clan and Tuske-

Chitto Harjo softball team wins in California

Fast-pitch team crosses state lines, comes back winners

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Softball has been a part of Native American culture for a long time and some will play this game all year if possible.

As for one team, Chitto Harjo, their season begins in June and does not end until September or October.

"We like to play at the festival tournaments that the tribes here in Oklahoma host," Chitto Harjo catcher Smith-Lisa Longman said.

The Chitto Harjo softball team, which means 'Crazy Snake' in the Mvskoke Language, began playing about 11 years ago. The man who started the team was Howard Harjo.

Chitto Harjo was an MCN historical leader who resisted changes imposed on the tribe by the U.S. government in order to prepare modern day Oklahoma for statehood.

According to his wife Rose-Harjo, Howard Harjo, wanted to have a team with a name that stood out.

"He always liked that name," Roselyn Harjo said. "The team was called the 'Diamondbacks'

before he changed it. He always put the snake design when it had something to deal with softball. With him being Creek too, I think that was another reason."

The team has six girls that are enrolled with MCN and they usually stay around Oklahoma to play in the tournaments

held at many tribal festivals.

However, this year they ventured out of the state and made a trek west to the Soboba Indian Reservation located in San Jacinto, Calif., this past September.

"It was nice to go out to California and play softball," second baseman Pamela Gibson

said. "I went out there last year with another teammate and we

played with a team from Arizona. We got third in that tournament." Gibson and Smith-Longman, along with their teammates, thought that they could be more successful if they

brought their team out there. "We felt like we could do a lot better with our own team here in Oklahoma," Gibson said.

notion was rect as Chitto Harjo took home first place in their first out-of-state tournament.

"It was a great tournament," Smith-Longman said. games were very competitive and very close. The team we beat to win the tournament were the defending champions."

Getting to California was no easy task as the team had to have their own fundraisers to help with the expenses.

"We sold meat pies, water and Gatorade to help with the fundraiser," Gibson said. "We didn't have a lot of donations and the players had to help with the expenses also."

The team wants to make a return trip to California next year for the tournament.

"We are talking to a spon-

sor and they proposed to help us with the finances," Smith-Longman said. Both Gibson Smith-Longman feel that if there were more women fastpitch softball tournaments, their team would play a lot more throughout the year.

"Since there is not a lot of women fast-pitch tournaments, we stick to the bigger tournaments," Gibson said. "We hope that there will be a lot more tournaments for us."

Here is a list of tournaments that Chitto Harjo placed in for

Muscogee (Creek) Nation - 2nd All Indian State - 1st Choctaw Festival - 1st N.I.A.A. National Soboba California - 1st

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT MSTRIGT COURT FILEO IN THE MATTER OF: Case No 11 1 2014 104 PM 3 38 A.B.J., DOB: 05/24/14

Alleged Deprived Child. NOTICE OF HEARING TO: BUSCOPFU (SACEK) MARIOR COUNT OFFICE

Tony Dean Taylor/Unknown Father, Natural Father of A.B.J

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgce, Oklahoma on the 6TH day of MARCH, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogec (Creek) Nation that the child remains a ward of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the child which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceeding, in the termination of your parental rights.

Veterans of valor: Adam and Wilburn Wiley

Cousins, bombardiers, **POWs**

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. The date is Jan. 11, 1944, and 23-year-old, Muscogee (Creek) bombardier Wilburn Wiley was tucked in the nose of a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress bomber bound for Oscherslaben, Ger-flight quota. many.

Wilburn had dropped out of college and left his wife and two-year-old son, David Wiley behind in Dustin, Okla., to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

"The popular thing back then, I understand, was to join the military and save the United States," David said.

Wilburn departed from the Royal Air Force station in Halesworth, England, in a plane named Old Faithful.



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wilburn Wiley (pictured) and his cousin Adam Wiley served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

bomb an aircraft manufactur- while drifting down and the ing plant.

The mission report from the 303rd BG, reported the weather was clear at take off; however, a recall signal was broadcast afover English bases.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bombardment Divisions and the 8th Air Force Division escorted the 303rd BG. Once the recall signal was issued, the 2nd and 3rd returned to base. 1st Air Commander Bombardment General Robert Travis continceived the order.

The Luftwaffe fighters, who were the German's air force, concentrated on attacking the bombers first. The 1st BD provided support, however the withdrawal support had already turned back and the bombers were left to fend for ory was going to pick up his fathemselves.

The 1st BD lost 34 planes and the 303rd BG lost 11, including Old Faithful. After the plane was shot down, German civilians captured Wilburn.

David said that while the civilians waited for the Nazis to pick him up, an old woman put Wilburn in her smoke house. She sat outside the door with an ax to keep any except the

military from taking him.

"He never knew her name but she saved his life," David said.

Six months later and 1,057 miles to the south, Wilburn's first cousin, Adam Wiley was the bombardier on a B-24 flying for Ploesti, Romania, on one of the many missions to bomb the Ploesti oil fields that were supplying the Nazis.

Adam had almost met his

A witness in another plane flying on that mission reported that Adam's plane was hit with anti-aircraft fire and burst into flames.

"Some shrapnel from antiaircraft fire... went into the bomb bay doors and set off one of the bombs and blew their airplane apart," Adam's nephew, Roger Wiley said. "My uncle was blown free of the wreckage and woke up. Some-

> how, miraculously, his parachute opened. He didn't engage it or

Submission

German's were shooting. "They shot up his legs; then

took him prisoner and hauled him off," Roger said.

According to Roger, the Ruster the onset of severe weather sians liberated him a couple of months later.

It took an additional eight months before Wilburn was liberated from Stalag Luft I.

SLI was a prison camp for airmen and it is estimated that almost 9,000 airmen had been imprisoned at the camp.

While there, Wilburn sufued on; asserting he never re- fered from starvation and dys-

> According to the 303rd BG website, the Germans chose to abandon the camp when Russian troops were marching towards it and in May 1945, the POWs were evacuated by air.

> David said his biggest memther in Fort Smith, Ark., when he was four-years-old.

"I will always just close my eyes and just see him. He was walking our way too," David said. "I knew how to run and I was the first one there. Of course, I didn't beat my mother [by] very much. There are certain things in life you don't ever forget. I never forgot. I just knew that was my dad."

INITIATIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

National Tribal Youth Network, designed to bolster leadership development and peer support through online interactive tools and resources.

Will this initiative differ from past plans to better Indian Country?

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger attended the tribal Nations conference and believes GII will benefit MCN.

"If anyone has really reached out to the Native American communities and tribal governments, it has been President Obama," Tiger said.

"I think he is very sincere in doing this. I think as a Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, we really need to pursue all the resources available concerning youth."

At this time, it is unclear to whom the funds will be allocated, whether it be the tribes directly or the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education.

Oklahoma Indian Education Director Dwight Pickering said that regardless of who will initially receive the funds, Oklahoma the American Indian Education Office would work toward bettering Native American children.

Oklahoma to disseminate and provide out there to the school districts or the tribes, then we will work as hard as we can to make sure those get where they need to go," Pickering said.

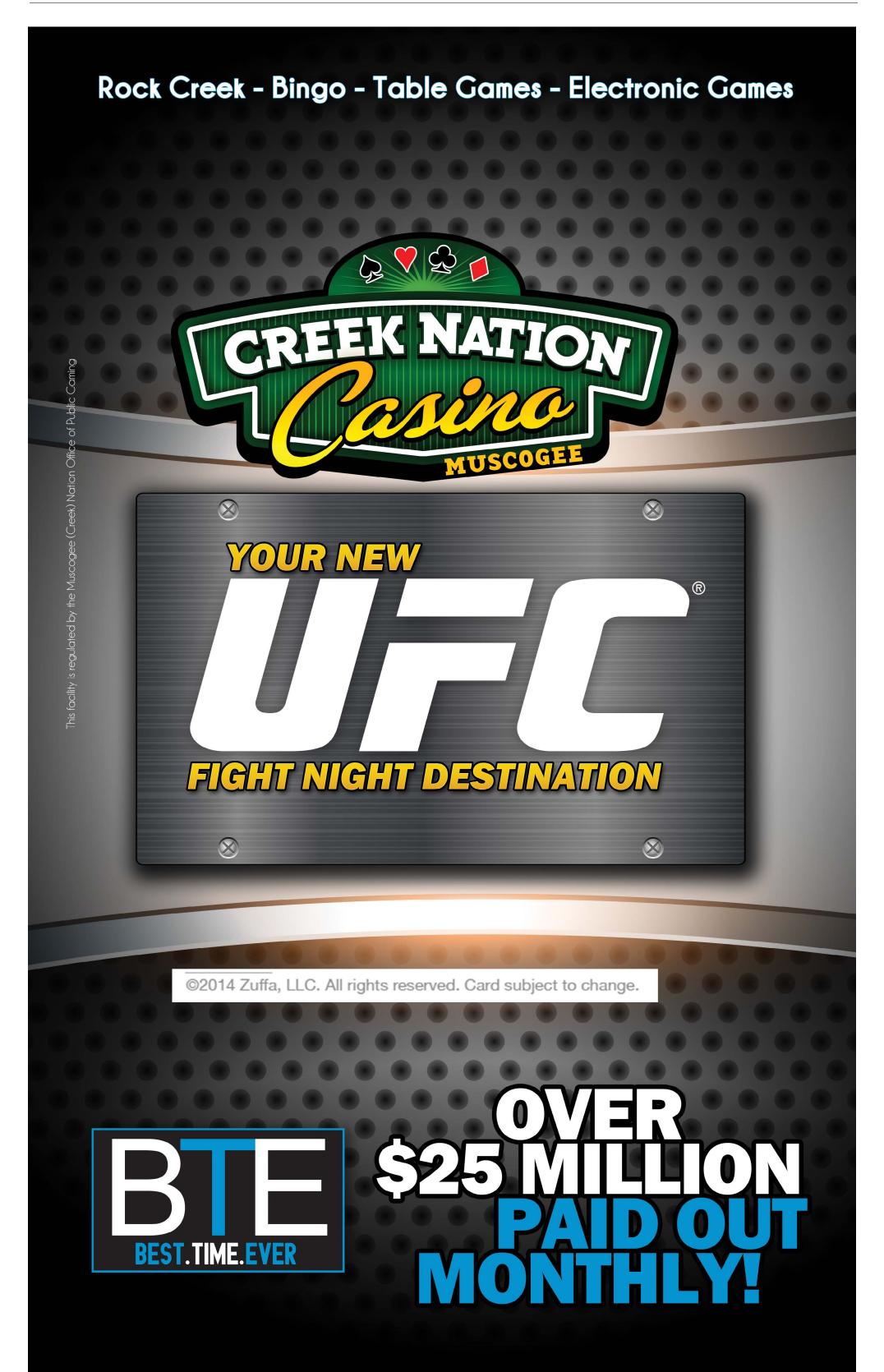
Tiger said that although it has not been announced when the funds would be available, this would not hinder MCN from using tribal funds to start programs.

GII is still evolving, the Cabinet Native Youth Listening Tour has been launched and the White House is set to convene in February to discuss challenges facing Native youth.

To read the full 2014 NYR "If the funding comes to visit: www.whitehouse.gov and the state department here in search for Native Youth Report.







3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net



TIGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the real estate acquisitions of the Okmulgee Country Club and of course the RiverWalk shopping center and it was to diversify the economic portfolio for the Nation. That, you could presume would be more of a long-term investment. Can you give me a feel as to when some return might start showing on either property?

A key word that you used Gary, is that it is an investment. Sometimes our ROI (Return on Investment) isn't at a pace that we'd like it to be but when you're new into diversifying your economic development venture, it may take a little bit longer than we would like.

One of the things we did once we got the property at RiverWalk, we didn't have a infrastructure to where we would put it so we decided because of some timeframes we needed to meet that we would put it under MNBE (Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise) for a short time.

That short time ended up being almost two-and-a-half years. Now OneFire has oversight over RiverWalk. I had approached the National Council on a couple of occasions to look at a different direction in the management of RiverWalk away from MNBE.

Again, no disrespect to MNBE but I think their interest was in 8(a) and it probably wasn't fair for us to ask them to do this but I did approach the Council to see about taking it in other directions and unfortunately that didn't happen.

One of the reasons we set up OneFire like it is, is to keep politics out of it.

Business and politics has never been a success story so OneFire now is doing some good things and we're feeling very encouraged about an announcement one way or the other where, we feel like we can get a quick return on our investment with an anchor for that particular venture.

MR: We've heard there's some interest in developing perhaps some housing projects for veterans there at the country club. We've also seen the item in the National Council agenda about an \$11 million entertainment venue at RiverWalk. Can you fill me in on those two ideas?

If there's one thing we've been successful at Gary, it's being part of the entertainment industry; that's what gaming is.

What we're looking at for a project across the river from River Spirit would enhance what we're doing with the rebranding of our casino with the hotel. What we're looking at is an entertainment venue that we feel is going to be one of the most adventurous projects that we would have.

I think a return on investment is something that's important.

One of the things I think is important is to have tenants to fill up RiverWalk. Anytime you have tenants, that means money coming in from the leases that we have with them.

It's going to take a domino effect. Our investment of \$11

million is being matched by the developers for this project, of their own money.

It's not often that we have people that want to collaborate with MCN on economic development ventures where we have to fund it entirely ourselves.

We feel good about this group that wants to invest half of what is needed for that project.

MR: The challenges coming out of the legal situation involving the Second Chief's Office. For good or bad, this reflects back on the administration. Can you fill me in on those and how you've dealt with them and where we go from here?

Really, I feel good about how it was dealt with, in particular from this office. It's not really just a reflection on just this administration but also the entire tribal government because one branch certainly reflects what we do as a government.

The issue with the second chief and those allegations that were brought forth to that office, I believe that the judicial system took care of a lot of that.

According to the Constitution of the MCN, at any point where there are some discrepancies in actual spending of funds and then it's brought to my attention then I have to in turn take that information to the Attorney General's Office, which I did.

I know that the Second Chief's Office is an independent office period. I have no supervisory capability; I have no oversight of that office. I do have oversight to the funds that are appropriated to the MCN.

Once I was informed of those issues, I did what the Constitution says I needed to do. I do know that there has been an insurance claim that's been filed on that money. We will see where that takes us because the second chief at that time was bonded.

In addition to that, I think the legal system will see about maybe recovering from that individual.

MR: What was the extent of any financial oversight then? Obviously his budget is separated from yours but wasn't there someone who was watching the pot there?

Going back, I think one of the questions that was asked during a committee meeting for supplementary to that budget was whether or not there were receipts that were being provided. At that time the answer was no.

But the committee at that time felt and believed in what the office was doing and that was helping the people. In addition to that, some of the Council members themselves were sending people over to the Second Chief's Office to get the funding that was needed for assistance.

I think that when you look at the whole picture, everybody gets a SEBA (Statement of Expenditures vs. Budget Appropriations) report, which tells you where you're at. I think that our controller, when he saw those discrepancies, he brought it to my attention.

It was also brought out in an audit that was performed. A copy of that audit is presented to the

National Council.

Now if you remember, this came to a head in August I believe.

Back in June, this audit, and all of us that are elected officials have an opportunity to attend an audit exit for one that is performed. I did go to that exit meeting and we went through the audit and the Council was invited, along with the speaker and they didn't take that invitation.

One of the things that it said on the issues with the Office of Second Chief, that a recommendation was made of really not allowing for any more charges to be made on credit cards and we stopped it at that point.

On this, and I will provide it for you, it says, 'The Nation has taken it upon themselves to correct those findings,' which we did. Audits are for what they are, to allow us for any findings, an opportunity to respond to them.

However, as you know, there is a forensic audit going on. I welcome it; I really do. We hear that it's going to cost anywhere from \$100,000-\$250,000 if it continues on.

You asked the question the other day; people are concerned about \$150,000 that was spent. It could help with an elderly for glasses.

The questions now that I'm getting from citizens is that, 'If we're going to spend \$150,000 for a forensic audit, don't you get audited and why would you want to do another audit?'

We could use that \$150,000-\$250,000 for other services as well. This isn't Chief Tiger talking; this is citizens that are asking that question.

Of course, we're all in this together and so that's something that the Council wanted to do. I welcome it and I look forward to the final report.

MR: What would you do if it comes down on the hard side for you?

I don't look at it as coming down on the hard side. Like I said, 'We're all in this together. We help each other.'

An audit is a public information document and I think that, I look at it as nothing other than we have a blueprint of things that have happened in the last six months and how those things

were addressed.

We've gone through a tough time Gary; we really have. It's no different from our forefathers and foremothers; the MCN continues to rebound and be strong and I see this as one of those times.

MR: Will there be some attempt to recoup those losses?

Yes, the insurance claims, because the second chief is bonded so we feel confident those monies can be recouped. On the spending for any funding for an audit, we'll never be able to recoup those.

MR: Could this mean an end for credit cards for elected officials at this tribe?

I think credit cards per se that allow for the withdrawal of money from the ATM, that'll never happen again. But I think tribal cards are justified and that's only for travel.

You use it for your hotel rooms and for food and that's about it.

MR: Previous administrations have butted heads with the Council for various reasons and much of what you have proposed

has received support. How do you see that relationship having evolved at this point?

I don't think it's any less than when I came in as chief. We've continued to work together. We may not always agree on a lot of things. We have good dialog and debates on them and whatever the decision of the Council is; I've always accepted.

I don't harbor any ill feelings or anything like that. We just go on to the next thing.

Even though we may be the fourth largest Indian Nation in the country, we're still suffering growing pains and I think our government stands on its own. We've been successful; we will continue to be successful.

We'll have a new session coming up in '16 and whoever is elected chief, well I know they'll continue doing what's been done and it's to work together for what's best for the Nation and the people we serve.

MR: One of the buzzwords we heard was accountability. Council members have been calling for more and we've heard it from the populace. So where do you go with that phrase? 'We want more accountability.'

I believe that if there has been an administration that has been more transparent than any other, it's this administration. We have provided an annual report that shows where our monies are spent and how it's spent.

We provide a semi-annual report to show where our direction is and where those funds are going. We've done everything we can to allow for the citizens that get copies of these annual reports to see how their government is working and how their money is being spent.

So, I think we've made an effort that's never been made in being transparent. I know sometimes our citizens, when we talk about certain things, they don't quite understand but those of us that are elected, we have to rally around each other to be able to provide that transparency.

It's not just this administration but everybody that's involved in this government that has to be transparent.

MR: What do you see as the goals and challenges for the coming year?

I think that the relations we've established with the City of Tulsa are good and I think that, that will be growing even more as we go into 2015.

We have an open line of communication with the mayor's office; something we've never had as MCN. Our people settled Tulsa so it's important that we keep that line of communication open.

We've collaborated on some things, which is both important to MCN and the City of Tulsa.

We're still working Gary, as you know it's an educational process with the State of Oklahoma on the importance of the impact we as tribal governments have on the State of Oklahoma. That will always continue.

I think Gov. Fallin has reached out a little bit more to us as MCN. I can only speak for us in terms of compact negotiations and I think that's a plus but we still have to be able to continue the education process with the legislature; that

is important.

I think this current administration in the White House has been very proactive in terms of helping tribal governments and Indian communities in general. The one questions that was asked at the last tribal leaders conference was, 'Once you're gone Mr. President, where do we go from here? What happens?'

His answer was, 'We're going to continue working hard to make sure these things continue after I leave this office and that maybe policies or laws can be passed to make sure that we all can continue this relationship on a government-to-government basis.'

MR: There was some thought about the elimination of the land rush re-enactments here in the State of Oklahoma. We always taught about these guys coming in and rushing over our land but I don't remember any lessons about whose land they were rushing over. What do you think?

I was pleased with what the Oklahoma City Public School Board of Education did. I think it's important that those types of events are no longer allowed to happen. I read your column by the way, 'Emvpanyv,' and you've always mentioned the fact that a lot of people don't get it, why we're against some things.

The issue with the mascots, I've publicly made statements against the NFL team in Washington, that it's really time that they consider changing the name. The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes has also passed a resolution to that effect.

I think it's a new day whenever you've got people finally getting the message as to why some of these things are offensive; why some of these things are wrong and written into the Oklahoma history books that are taught in schools.

I think it's a good thing and I look forward to at some point in my lifetime that these are no longer issues.

'Irons in the Fire'

Gary, you mentioned something about why there are so many projects going on and why. I think one of the things we wanted to do coming in, as an administration was status quo was not going to be something that we accept anymore.

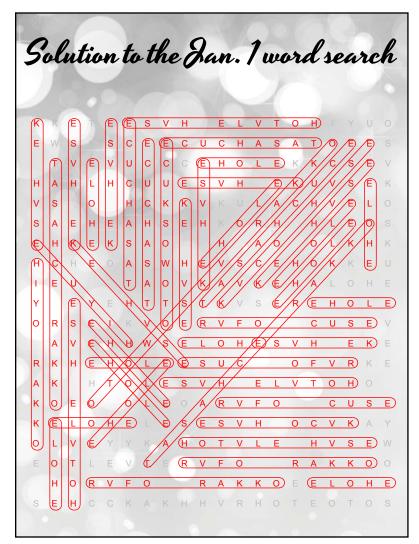
We wanted to be very aggressive and I know that one of my friends that sits on the Council made a statement, 'Why can't we get one or two projects finished and then go on to the next one?'

My response to him was, 'Maybe that's one of the things in our history as tribe is that we wait and we wait, while everybody around us is succeeding and getting into economic development.'

I don't say that disrespectfully; I just think that our people want jobs. That's why we've been aggressive.

It may not be returning as quickly as we'd like but I believe that's why we're all elected; to make sure we're at least making the effort, regardless of how many projects there may be, to at least try and get jobs for our Muscogee people.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events



Education and Training holds roundtable discussion

Nation aims to build stronger relationships

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training held the second annual Superintendent's Roundtable and Luncheon Dec. 2 at Green Country Area Technology Center in Okmulgee.

Superintendents and representatives of local schools throughout the MCN jurisdiction were invited to the luncheon.

"The idea is to build a stronger relationships with the schools and most of all, to continue to address the needs of our Creek citizens and other Native tribes that are going to these schools," MCN Secretary of Education and Training Dr. Wayne Johnson said.

There are 67 school districts within MCN and over half of these schools sent their superintendent or representative to participate in this summit.

"I am pleased with the turnout today," Johnson said. "These schools want to work with us for our children."

Johnson also spoke offering Myskoke as a language credit at the schools.

"This is something that is ongoing but it is going in the right direction and we hope to have our language introduced in the schools and the students can get credit for learning our language," Johnson said.

Beggs Public Schools, which already has the myON program in the school system through MCN, wants to continue a partnership with the Nation.

"We want to see what other programs Creek Nation has so we can help enhance the education for our Creek students," Assistant Superintendent Ronald Martin said. "We want to improve the education for the students and this partnership with Creek Nation is helping to do that."

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 1 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' an article titled 'Veteran starts business through MCN SBDC,' Muscogee (Creek) citizen Gary Luellen's business is listed as Five Civilized Tribes Pest Control. The correct name is Five Tribes Pest Control.

The MNN regrets this error.

MCN SRO schedule

Media Release

Jan. 20, 27
Tax Commission
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Jan. 23 WIC Program 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

Propane assistance available for traditional Muscogee (Creek) churches

National Council/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — To provide Muscogee (Creek) Traditional Churches with financial assistance in purchasing propane and helping with natural gas and electric costs for heating during winter months, each church on "our" list (have to be on the list) shall complete and submit an application to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Office in order to receive assistance up to \$750 for propane or \$500 for natural gas and electric utility expenses. Walk-ins are welcome and questions or concerns may be directed to Legislative Clerk Ekaese McKinney at: 918-758-1410. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28.

Mvto!

NCA 14-212 Amending NCA 14-195 (A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to provide financial assistance to Muscogee (Creek) traditional churches in purchasing propane.)

MVTO



The family of Bob Hicks wishes to convey our appreciation for the prayers and support during our time of loss.

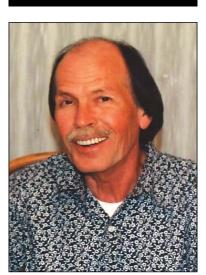
We are blessed to have friends like you and are thankful for all you have done.

We want to give special thanks to Chief George Tiger and the Administrators who were with us in Washington, D.C.

To Joanna Peck, Ivalene Melton and the Elderly Nutrition staff, Mary, Sidney, Jackie and Amanda. Also, Rev. and Mrs. Jay Downing, Bunny Factor and Steve Long for the Creek singing, Ken Davis and staff, Christina Good Voice, Gary Fife, Amanda Rutland and Sterling Cosper.

Thank you for the kind words, flowers and memories. We will hold them in our hearts and they give us great comfort.

BOBBY MARSHALL



EUFAULA, Okla. — Bobby Gene Marshall, 70, of Eufaula, passed away on Dec. 31, 2014 at the Eufaula Manor Nursing Home. Bobby was born March 1, 1944 in Tahlequah, Okla., to Siah McIntosh and Thomas and Mabel Marshall-Dick.

He attended school at Eufaula and graduated from Chilocco Indian School in 1962. Bobby worked in home health until his retirement in 2013. He was a member of the Tuskegee Baptist Church. Bobby enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Survivors include: sisters, Nettie Phelps of Wilburton, Okla., and Marilyn McIntosh of Stidham, Okla., and a host of family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his: special friend of 45 years, Josephine A. Weaver; parents, Thomas and Mabel Dick; sister, Carolyn Lou Dick; both maternal and paternal grandparents; nephew, Jon Levi McIntosh; special aunt, Leona Marshall Colbert; aunts, Mary Jane Funburg and Emma L. Smith and uncle, Sandy 'Buddy' Marshall.

A funeral service was held Jan. 3, 2015 at the Tuskegee Baptist Church with Pastor Allen Colbert officiating.

Funeral arrangements were made with Hunn Black and Merritt Funeral Home and Crematory.

VIRGINIA MOORE



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Virginia Posey 'Ginger' Moore passed away Aug. 18, 2014 at the age of 85 from complications of a well-lived life.

Ginger was the quintessential only child born to Wynema Posey and Thomas Burnett Blaine June 26, 1929 in Jackson, Tenn., and the grandchild of Alexander Lawrence Posey, Muscogee (Creek) poet laureate of Oklahoma. The family arrived in Phoenix July 1, 1930, thus debunking mother's claim of being an Arizona Native and validating her complaint of, "being hot ever since!"

Her father's job as auditor of the state tax commission and her mother's position as secretary of the Soil Conversation Service took them from Phoenix to Safford, where she said she, "learned about Mormons," to Tucson and back to Phoenix.

In Tucson, she attended Sam Hughes and made her stage debut at the Temple of Music and Art in 1940; finishing grade school in Phoenix at Madison #1

She graduated from North High in 1947, attended Phoenix College as a member of Kappa Delta Nu, spent one year at the U of A, as a Delta Gamma and graduated from Arizona State College with a Bachelor of Arts in education in 1951. She was thrilled to finish school in Tempe, putting her in closer proximity to the love of her life, the son of a local mortician, A. Lee Moore, Jr.

Their marriage was held June 9, 1951 at Trinity Cathedral and was attended by their best friends from throughout their school years.

Ginger went from being afraid to pick up the telephone to call a repairman to chairing the boards of her favorite valley charitable organizations. As a member of the Jr. League of Phoenix, she held many positions, starred as "Trixie" in the Follies and served as chair of the annual rummage sale three years in a row! As an advisor to the Delta Gamma Sorority at ASU, she was influential in founding the Foundation for Blind Children. On these evenings Dad made us grilled Spam and cheese sandwiches!

Ginger was a member of The Phoenix Art Museum League, Visiting Nurse Service Auxiliary, Good Sam Hospital Auxiliary and an over 40-year member and past chair and treasurer of the: Barrow Neurological Foundation Women's Board, Charter Government Selection Committee, Maricopa County Hospital Board, Special Events Committee of the American Cancer Society and past chairman and over 40-year member of The Board of Visitors.

When she wasn't organizing the North High Class of 1947 reunions, playing tennis at the

Marshall's, herding livestock on 15th Avenue, needle pointing stunning Christmas stockings, getting us ready to attend Friendly Pines Camp, making the best Texas sheet cake, baking a potato casserole (referred to as "those blankety-blank potatoes by Doc Jones, Crowder and Al) served almost as often as Uncle Ben's Wild Rice, waiting for the UPS man to make a delivery to the Giddy Up Ranch, traveling with Al and Tres to rodeos and National Selected Mortician conventions, she was my Brownie Troop leader!

Then she took up golf! The WGA became a big part of her days and fostered the Annual Egg Nog Open.

She loved to travel with Dad and friends, often in Dad's plane, which she took lessons to learn to land in case of the "Big One," to Mexico and commercially all over the globe. As a couple, they enjoyed The Mountain Club, Iron Springs, Villa Vacanze at Mission Beach, the Giddy Up Ranch and finally, the Pine Top cabin. Together, they were members of the: Valley Field Riding and Polo Club, Phoenix Country Club, Arizona Club, Los Caballeros Golf Club, White Mountain Country Club and the Paradise Valley Country

We wish to thank the PVCC staff, who we feel she may have loved more than us, in particular, "Super" Dave Salmon, for the extra attention always lavished on "Yin Yer."

We are grateful for: the house-keeping skills of Rita Bundy, the handyman skills of Doug Daniel, Del and Susie for weekly hair and mani appointments, La Siena Senior Retirement Community, the tender care of Ryan House Hospice of the Valley, Paradise Valley Living Center and Mary Jo Beardsley.

She is survived by her: now exhausted daughter, Posey and son-in-law, John Nash; son, who still walks on water, Albert Lee "Tres" Moore III and daughter-in-law Sharon, their daughters and grandchildren; nieces and nephew on Coronado Island; Arkansas cousins and her god-children: Linda Perry Boeing, Christine Marshall Turner and Matthew Miller.

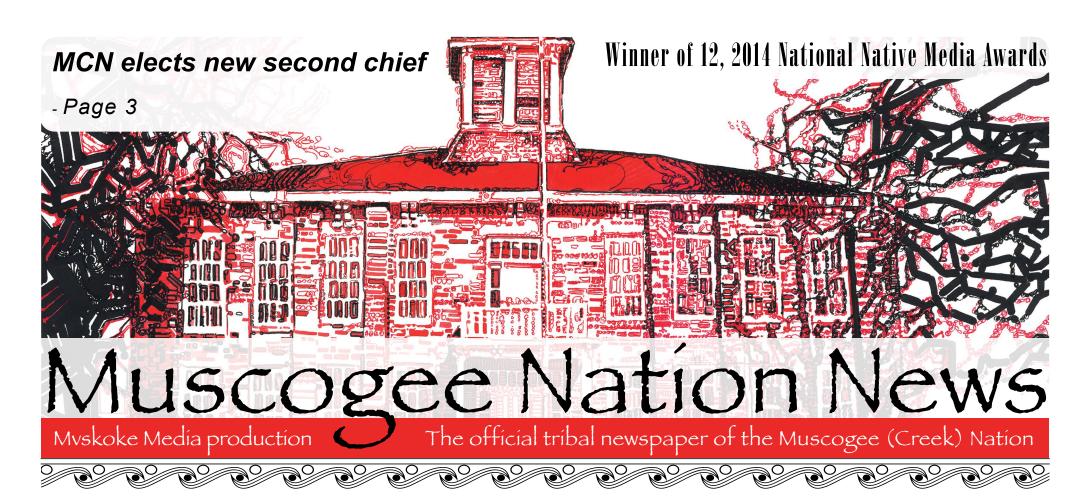
Visitation was held August 29, 2014 at Whitney and Murphy Funeral Home, 4800 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ. The following day, she was placed next to our Dad in a private service at the Departure Lounge in the mausoleum at Paradise Memorial Gardens, 9300 E. Shea Blvd. Scottsdale, AZ.

Contributions in her honor can be made to: the Board of Visitors, 6245 N. 24th Parkway, Suite 110 Phoenix, AZ, 85016, The Barrow Neurological Foundation Women's Board, 350 E. Thomas Phoenix, AZ, 85013 or Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower Phoenix, AZ 85014 and would be greatly appreciated.

Arrangements were entrusted to Whitney and Murphy Funeral Home and Post Scripts by Posey LLC.

"Yes Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus"





New entertainment project tees off at RiverWalk

Development to complement Margaritaville expansion

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

JENKS, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation announced the construction of a \$22 million entertainment facility to be built at the MCN RiverWalk business development in Jenks during a press conference Jan. 14 at the site.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 14-213 on Dec. 20, 2014, appropriating \$11,661,800 to OneFire Holding Company LLC for the purpose of constructing the facility.

MCN is partnering with RW Restaurant Group, who will provide the remaining funds. RWRG was created specifically for this development.

The project will include hightech golf, family-oriented games and restaurants.

"It's just a great family entertainment complex, which we wanted it to be," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "We didn't just arbitrarily jump into something. It took us this time to make sure who we were going to be partnering up with was very viable."



MNN/Sterling Cosper Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger announces a \$22 million entertainment facility to be placed in the MCN RiverWalk business development. The project will include high-tech golf, family-oriented games and restaurants.

OneFire Holding Company Board Chairman Sean Kouplen believes that the venue will

bring additional businesses to RiverWalk. "We are committed to

revitalizing the RiverWalk and making it the center that we all want it to be.

"This concept is so unique and it is so different than anything in the market... We just felt very confident that it is the draw that we have been looking for. There's nothing like it in Tulsa," Kouplen

A date for the groundbreaking of the project will be announced at a later date. The construction phase is estimated to take 18-24

Tiger said that the venue would complement the Margaritaville themed expansion at River Spirit Casino across the Arkansas River.

"I think as a Nation we like doing things that is kind of ground breaking," Tiger said. "We were the first tribe in the state to have high stakes Indian

gaming... It enhances the ability for us to really have the top entertainment district alongside the banks of the Arkansas River."

Tiger also believes that the project is another move for MCN to invest in economic development outside of gaming.

"We're wanting to diversify what we do in economic development. This is a step in that direction," Tiger said.

An announcement regarding the specifics of the project is expected in the coming weeks.

Feb. 1, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 3 "Rvfo Cuse" Winter's Younger Brother



ITC session sets attendance record

Tiger gives MCN update

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla. — Record attendance was set at the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly session Jan. 8-9, at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa.

A total of 529 individulls registered for the meeting, which was hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The MCN National Council passed NCA 14-199 Nov. 22, 2014, appropriating \$70,000 to fund the event.

In an MCN press release, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger celebrated the turnout.

"This rivals national Native organizations' annual conference attendance," Tiger said. "There were many that didn't register and the numbers attending signifies the strength the Inter-Tribal Council is gaining regionally and nationally and the impact it has made in being a strong voice for the five tribes."

Work group meetings to do with tribal departments and issues such as cultural preservation, housing and domestic violence were held throughout the day Jan. 8.

The general session was held Jan. 9 and included reports from leaders of each tribe; as well as Oklahoma Native American Liaison Jacque Hensley, Haskell Indian Nations University President Dr. Veneida Chenault and Eastern Oklahoma Region Bureau of Indian Affairs representative Eddie Streater.

In his update, Tiger spoke about the Margaritaville expansion, new construction for health facilities and measures by MCN to "go paperless."

Wayland Gray acquitted of trespassing charge

MCN, PCBI lawsuit still pending

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wayland Gray was acquitted of criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct charges Jan. 14 in a jury appeal trial.

"We are extremely thankful that the result came out like it did," Gray's legal council Bill Baxley said. "We're grateful that we had a jury that saw through it. We had a good jury and thank goodness they had the courage to do what was right."

Gray was arrested for trespassing along with two other members of Hickory Ground Tribal Town Feb. 15, 2013, while attempting to pray for their ancestors who were exhumed from the expansion site for a casino belonging to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in



Mvskoke Media File Photo

Through a jury trial, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wayland Gray was acquitted of a trespassing charge Jan. 14 following a district judge issued previous conviction Aug. 22, 2013 for his arrest Feb. 15, 2013 while attempting to pray for his ancestors who were exhumed from the expansion site for a casino belonging to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Wetumpka, Ala.

Wetumpka, Ala.

"We came that day to pay respects and to pray with ancestors and to let them know that we're still fighting for them," Gray said.

Gray was previously found guilty of the charges Aug. 22, 2013 by an Elmore County district judge. A jury trial was not initially granted because the charges were minor.

In a written statement from PBCI, a spokesperson said that the tribe did not agree with the outcome of the appeal.

"We respect the judicial process and the people who take time away from their work and families to perform their civic duty and serve as jurors. Mr. Gray was previously found guilty by a district judge in this case, and we continue to believe that was the correct verdict."

Baxley is also representing MCN and Hickory Ceremonial Ground in their federal lawsuit against officials of PBCI for removing 57 sets of human remains from the original Hickory Ground site.

According to Baxley, the status of the case is pending.

Baxley is famous for his case against the Ku Klux Klan in 1977 where he successfully prosecuted Robert

Acquitted - 2

ITC-3



MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

MANAGER

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE

jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER DARREN DELAUNE

<u>ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

RADIO SPECIALIST **GARY FIFE** gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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GEENATIONNEWS



MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

The legality of cultural preservation

Department discusses laws impacting tribes

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Prior to 1966, there were few laws that protected culturally relevant Native American locations and objects. Without this protection, they were destroyed, looted or left to fall into ruin.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Office was established in 1995, to preserve, protect and document historic and cultural resources.

CP Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Emman Spain spoke about the federal laws governing these efforts during the National Historic Preservation Presentation Dec. 18, 2014, at the MCN Housing Building in Okmulgee.

The National Historic Preservation Act grants authority to CP to oversee sites, artifacts and graves within the MCN jurisdiction. It also places termed, 'ar-

eas of interest' across the Southeast such as the Ocmulgee National Monument.

"Creeks were and probably had occupations in 12 different states and some of them were Removal routes," Spain said.

NHPA also allows tribes to assume functions of the State Historic Preservation Office if the tribal entity is capable. As of 2011, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has certified CP as a tribal historic preservation program.

This allows CP to document sites within MCN and to nominate sites for the National Register of Historic Places. CP also works with a number of federal and state agencies.

"These are just some of the agencies we consult with: U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, National Guard, Federal Highway Administration, Forest Service, National Park Service...universities [and] museums," Spain said.

MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Preservation Office Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Emman Spain educates attendees Dec. 18, 2014, during the National Historic Preservation presentation.

penetrating radar to examine sites for artifacts, but the cemetery crew also uses them to look for lost burials.

"We got the opportunity to work with it several times in the Southeast at places like Etowah Mounds in north Georgia, large mound complex that they believe were built by Muskogeans," Spain said.

heritage uses source technicians to work with archaeologists at sites.

"It's a certified course that they take. It's 40 hours classroom learning about archaeological methods, techniques and things. All these federal preservation laws and things like that," Spain said. "Then, they spend 40 hours out in the field actually working on a site."

Spain said he consults on Section 106 reviews. NPHA Section 106 requires any federal program, any program using federal money or any project on federal land to survey the project site for historical or cultural significance.

"It basically requires federal agencies to consider actions on historic property," Spain said.

One recent project that dealt with a Section 106 review involved the Federal Railroad Authority. In response to the Railroad Safety Improvement Act, FRA began erecting cell phone towers along railroad tracks.

have to consult on each one of these cell towers with the tribes. So, that became a big issue that we are dealing with now. Cause they don't want to wait the 30 days for us to reply," Spain said.

According to Spain, when a project is submitted for review, it should include the project plans and a copy of the archaeological assessment or cultural survey.

"[The report] sets the effects that the project's going to have on the land or whatever and if there is adverse effects and we can resolve these effects," Spain said. "Our main thing is, if we can avoid them, to avoid it... That's one of our reasons that we want them to start consultation early in their planning of their projects."

Early consultation prevent delays and tra cost later in the project. Spain also mentioned the Na-

tional Interstate and Highways Act of 1956, which he believes impeded preservation efforts. "These interstate highway

systems we know for a fact run through a lot of cultural sites. We have seen some of them; they run through and it destroyed a lot of them," Spain said.

According to Spain, documenting Mvskoke related sites is an ongoing project.

"We are still researching and learning more about the tribe and where a lot

MCN wins Laserfiche Run Smarter Award

Laserfiche/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Laserfiche has announced the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as the winner of a Run Smarter Award in the 'Best Public Service Initiative' category.

The fourth-largest Native American Sovereign Nation in the U.S., the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is a federally recognized tribe of 77,000 people based in the state of Oklahoma.

It uses Laserfiche to share documents across 60 departments, giving tribal members easy access to government programs and public information.

"The essence of the public service initiative is ease of access to government program services.

"As the workflow engine for digital program application submissions, Laserfiche gives our program workers more time to focus on their clients and allows the public to more easily access the service programs they need," said Cindy Freiling, MCN IT Manager.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said, "Our decision to standardize on Laserfiche across the entire Nation has set us on the path to becoming the most paperless Indian Nation in the U.S."

The Run Smarter awards ceremony took place Jan. 15 during the Laserfiche Empower 2015 Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Laserfiche is based in Long Beach, Calif., with global headquarters in Hong Kong and offices in Shanghai, Toronto, Mexico, London, Washington, D.C., and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Laserfiche uses its Run Smarter philosophy to create simple and elegant enterprise content management (ECM) solutions.

Since 1987, more than 34,000 organizations worldwide—including federal, state and local government agencies and Fortune 1000 companies—have used Laserfiche software to streamline document, records and business process management.

For more information, visit: www.laserfiche.com. the Laserfiche ECM Blog at: www.laserfiche.com/ecmblog and follow Laserfiche on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Google+.

CMN holds grand opening for student center



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The College of the Muscogee Nation held a grand opening event for the new student center Jan. 16 on campus in Okmulgee, Okla.

Latest College of the Muscogee Nation project completed

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens, officials and students packed the halls of the new College of the Muscogee Nation Student Center for the grand opening event Jan. 16, on the CMN campus in Okmulgee.

The event served as a meet and greet and included tours of the building, information booths, door prizes and refreshments.

"This is our second administration/education building on campus and this houses a science lab, three classrooms that can be converted into a conference room. We have a fitness center, a bookstore and café," CMN Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall said.

Randall also said the expanded library is now located in the student center, which offers private study rooms for students. The building also features the Myskoke alphabet as decor throughout the building.

Randall explained why the grand opening was delayed, as the student center has been in use since last semester.

"Part of it was just to finish up the construction side of it," Randall said. "We needed a parking lot to facilitate everything, so that was one of the reasons. Just to make sure we were ready with everything. We wanted to put our best foot forward on everything."

Randall's favorite part of the building is the wall displays.

"You have the Removal route; you have the tribal town map after Removal; and then we have a

Treaty of 1832 that brings it all together and really signifies why we are here, how we got here and gives us our connection to the ancestors," Randall said.

The café integrates culture into the menu by serving Indian tacos every other week on 'taco Tuesdays.'

CMN plans to continue the cultural garden from past years and use the crops to service the

According to the CMN Emetat Evketecvket Self-Study Report that was compiled for the Higher Learning Commission as a prerequisite to accreditation, the student center is the second of a planned four building design that will form a circle upon completion.

Tribal Employment Rights Office certified vendor Redstone Construction built the student center.

ACQUITTED

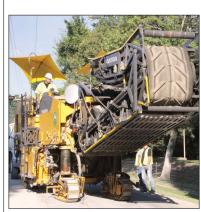
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Chambill for the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Ala.

Before the trial, Gray said that Muscogee (Creek) citizens should continue to come together and fight to preserve MCN culture and sacred sites in Oklahoma as well as homelands in the southeastern U.S.

"It's a shame that today in America that, you know; you go dig up another race of people... you'll be put in jail... and be all over the news as the biggest disgrace but you go dig up a Native grave and you get a Ph.D.," Gray said.

Transportation featured in two magazines



MNN File Photo

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation ing lot, ground it up and then Transportation Department milling machine is sought after by cities and counties within the MCN jurisdiction and recently got the the machine has facilitated redepartment featured in two industry

Transportation collaborates with cities, counties

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "To me, it looks like a dinosaur," laughs Muscogee (Creek) Nament Manager Charley LaSarge about his department's milling machine, which was recently featured in 'Construction News' and 'Asphalt Contractor' helps our department out." magazines.

Despite its appearance, many MCN jurisdiction have sought 'asphalt season.' the machine for its capabilities.

known to rent out their milling we will be starting on," LaSarge machines for \$750-\$1000 per said.

"We are able to cut that charge in half so the county commissioners can use the milling machine," LaSarge said. "They are able to use the machine to get some of the roads fixed and not have to worry about spending a lot of money in trying to do so."

A milling machine is used to remove a part of the surface of a paved road, bridge or parkreplace it for resurfacing.

LaSarge is pleased with how lationships with local govern-

"I am very proud of the collaboration that we have with the counties and also the cities in Creek Nation," LaSarge said. "With the collaboration that we have, we can help the cities and counties get some of their roads, parking lots and what else they need fixed."

According to LaSarge, the tion Transportation Depart- money they earn from jobs with the cities and counties goes back into the Transportation budget.

"With them paying us, it

LaSarge said the department will be busy in 2015 when the cities and counties within the weather warms or as he calls it,

"As soon as it warms up, we Constructions companies are have two major projects that

ITC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tiger explained that the progressive move toward a paperless administration has benefitted the tribe monetarily.

"With all the things that we've done, we have saved the tribe in three years approximately \$100 million," Tiger said.

ITC representatives passed the following legislation unanimously except 15-08, which was tabled until the next session:

Resolution 15-01: A resolution opposing the proposed rule 'Definition of "Waters of the United States" Under the Clean Water Act.'

Resolution 15-02: A resolution requesting consultation with the White House Council on Native American Affairs with concern to expansion of self-governance opportunities between federal agencies not included under the Indian Self Determination Act

and Tribal Governments.

Resolution 15-03: A resolution supporting enactment of federal land law reform with respect to individual restricted lands of the Muscogee (Creek), Seminole, Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

Resolution 15-04: A resolution encouraging the swift reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act.

Resolution 15-05: A resolution supporting changes to Oklahoma statute recognizing tribal domestic violence programs, tribal batterer intervention programs and tribal domestic violence specialists.

Resolution 15-06: A resolution supporting the reauthorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act.

Resolution 15-07: A resolution supporting the creation of the NAGPRA/NHPA Section 106 Working Group.

Resolution 15-08: A resolution requesting the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service to examine tribes' feasibility to administer federal food assistance programs in a fair manner.

Resolution 15-09: A resolution endorsing and supporting the Oklahoma Native American Juvenile Justice Task Force in developing memorandum of understandings between the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs and tribal government systems.

Resolution 15-10: A resolution to support collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service in the protection, interpretation and development of Fort Armistead.

Tiger passed the reigns of ITC president on to Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo. Harjo will serve as the president for the next year.

The Chickasaw Nation will host the next ITC session April 9-10.

MCN elects new second chief



MNN/Amanda Rutland

A ceremony to swear-in Louis Hicks as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief was held Jan. 17 at the MCN Mound building.

Hicks defeats former principal chief A.D. **Ellis**

MCN PR/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. Muscogee (Creek) citizens elected a new second chief Jan. 10 in a special election runoff as tribal employee Louis Hicks defeated his opponent, former principal chief A.D. Ellis, according to unofficial results released by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board.

Hicks received 65 percent of the vote with 2,010 votes, while Ellis garnered 1,070 votes. Hicks won a majority in all 18 voting precincts, as well as the absentee ballots.

More Muscogee (Creek) citizens cast their votes in the general election than in the Dec. 13 primary election.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger stated, "While the overall percentages are somewhat less than desired, I am happy that the general election drew the attention of additional voters, more so than the primary election. We hope that trend continues. The citizens have spoken and indicated support for the continued progressive direction of this administration."

Hicks, 64, has stated that his goal is to be open-minded with Muscogee (Creek) citizens

and to "diligently listen and act upon their concerns" to his limitations. He said he will follow the constitution of the great Muscogee Nation and to, the best of his ability, be assertive with whatever authority is given to him by the chief or National Council.

Hicks will fulfill the remainder of the second chief's term, which is up for election in November.

Hicks was sworn in by MCN Supreme Court Justice Leah Harjo-Ware during a ceremony Jan. 17 at the MCN Mound building.

The results can be viewed at: www.mcn-nsn.gov/Pages/Electi onBoard/2015SecondChiefElec tion.html.

Hicks, a Vietnam veteran, previously worked for MCN from 2007 December 2011 as the director of the MCN Department of Human Development, and most recently was employed at the MCN Reintegration Program prior to running for the second chief position.

He is of the Atvse (inactive)/ Arbeka (active) Tribal Towns and the Bird Clan and a member of the Silver Springs Indian Baptist Church. He has been married to Gloria Hicks for 40 years with whom he has seven children and 16 grandchildren.





Mound building switches bulbs to improve energy efficiency



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation received a rebate check for \$7,680 from the Public Service Company of Oklahoma for participation in the PSO energy efficiency programs plan. Pictured are staff with: Tribal Employment Rights Office certified vendor All Ways LED Lighting and Electrical Supply as well as the MCN: District Court, National Council and Environmental Services Department.

\$3,700 investment sees over \$2,300 first month savings

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to designrecycleinc. com, compact florescent lights cost around 43 percent more per year to operate than LED bulbs.

Staff at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound building in Okmulgee capitalized on this recently by making the switch from halogen and fluorescents to LEDs and received a \$7,800 rebate check from the Public Service Company of Oklahoma for their efforts.

According to MCN Environmental Services Environmental Specialist II James Williams, the switch before the rebate cost around \$11,500.

"The reason it was so much cheaper is because they did the installation themselves, Williams said. "The actual cost to do that whole building was \$3,700."

After the installation, Williams said the Mound energy bill decreased by over \$2,300 the first month.

"Their electric bill went down significantly," Williams said. "After they put that in, it was there, it dropped to \$4,665.67."

Williams believes the LEDs tal impact reduction of switch-

actually alleviated the heating and cooling costs factored into these bills as well.

"What they were running into over at the Mound was those big lights in the Mound were throwing off so much heat, that even in the winter time, the air conditioning would come on," Wil-

All Ways LED Lighting and Electrical Supply was the Tribal Employment Right Office certified contractor who provided consultation for the switch.

Employee John Bynum explained how replacing the halogen lights in the Mound auditorium reduced the heat output.

"They were running 100-watt halogens and they went down to the 15-watt LED bulbs...The heat that is put off by the LEDs versus the regular bulbs is far

"You can actually take an LED bulb that has been running all day and touch it whereas a regular bulb, you can't even touch it until it cools off for 10-15 minutes," Bynum said.

According to ledsource.com, despite the decrease in wattage, the lighting actually improved.

A 75-watt halogen produces 980 lumens and a 16.3-watt LED produces 800. However, the LED still produces more light due

Bynum said the environmen-

Leadership gives insight into Nation on 'Inside MCN'

ing to LEDs goes beyond energy consumption.

"Florescent bulbs contain mercury and you can't even dump them in landfills," Bynum said. "They have to be paid for to be disposed of."

This fact can also make fluorescents a safety concern.

"The mercury in those tubes is a nightmare," Williams said.

LEDs also last longer. "In a lot of cases, they last

7-15 times longer than a regular bulb," Bynum said. Bynum has enjoyed working

with MCN and has sold several bulbs to River Spirit Casino since the Mound project. "It's really been a pleasure

doing business," Bynum said. "Shalee [Cook] has been really helpful over at the TERO office."

Williams outlined some of Environmental Service's future goals.

"Our next big push is to get all this lighting done across the tribe...What we want to do is get a centralized app where we can control the heat and cooling because we heat and cool these buildings 24/7 and there's really no need for it," Williams said.

Williams is pleased with their initial endeavor.

"What a better way to start than with the Mound? It's a

Bynum can be reached at: 918-519-5243 and Williams at: 918-549-2587.

New exercise program held at MCN



Creek Fit is a new program that began Dec. 30, 2014 to help everyone who participates to get a fresh start through exercise.

Program helps to keep 'Creeks Fit'

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. Come one; come all. There is a new type of fitness being taught at Muscogee (Creek) Nation known as 'Creek Fit.'

Creek Fit is a new program that began Dec. 29, 2014 to to get a fresh start through exercise.

with simple motions and movements," MCN Tourism and Recreation, Recreation Manager Rojer Johnson said. "This is specifically designed for people stationary a majority of their lives."

Creek Fit class is designed to spark and facilitate any ambitions that the participants have.

"This class is a good way to want to achieve," Johnson said.

Johnson spoke about how this class can help treat common health problems facing Native Americans including: you." Type-2 diabetes, heart disease and high cholesterol.

"I know a lot of people who ercising. deal with diseases on a daily batake a lot of medications when it can be taken care of, maintained and controlled through exercise."

Johnson wants to get the healthy.

"Traditionally, we were healthy people," Johnson said. "Let's make our people, our Nation, more healthy."

in the first day of Creek Fit. Whether the attendees had been exercising for a long time, started exercising again or nev-

er have exercised; they all got together to push themselves and improve their health.

"That is what I want for this class," Johnson said. "I want everyone to push themselves to get in better shape and improve their lifestyle. We saw everyone doing what they could to get better but also push the next person to get finished with the workouts."

Johnson has an open invitahelp everyone who participates tion to anyone that wants to try Creek Fit.

"We have everyone from "I want to get people moving all walks of life that are here," Johnson said. "Whether you are in shape or not, come here and join us. We push everyone to get better and work hard."

Tribal Program Clerk for the that are sitting behind the desk MCN Contract Health Services or sitting where they have been Delaina Berryhill has been attending Creek Fit since its inception and spoke how it is According to Johnson, the helping to motivate her in her fitness goals.

"I have done other classes where it felt like you were in competition with everyone get started for whatever it is you else," Berryhill said. "With this class, the instructor (Johnson) lets you go at your own pace and everyone motivates you. No one is looking down on

> Berryhill said that Creek Fit has helped her to continue ex-

"I feel more motivated to sis," Johnson said. "They have to workout on other days besides the days that we do Creek Fit," Berryhill said.

Johnson was asked how long Creek Fit would be going.

"We will have this class forevcitizens back to where they are er," Johnson said. "There is no time frame. We want everyone to keep coming to Creek Fit so I want to keep it going for as long as possible."

Creek Fit is held on Monday, Over 20 people participated Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee. For more information call: 918-732-7991.

showcase piece," Williams said. around \$7,000 in the summer to an improved ability to curve time and once they got them in light loss factors including heat.

Radio show connects **Tiger with** citizens

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger has a background in television and radio. There was a break in broadcasting for him when he was elected as MCN principal chief.

According to Tiger, citizens asked him to consider getting back on the radio.

"It is ironic how it came together," Tiger said. "Some tribal members not only instate but also out of state asked me to be back on the radio."

The radio program is called 'Inside Muscogee (Creek) Nation.' The show airs at 9:30 on KOKL 1240AM, The Brew in Okmulgee and at the same time on KWSH 1260AM in Seminole, Okla.

Mvskoke Media Interim Director Edwin Marshall co-hosts the radio show with Tiger.

"The reason why we have it aired in Seminole is because the area that it covers is within the southwest part of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Marshall said. "We have a large concentration of tribal members in those areas."



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left) and Mvskoke Media Interim Director Edwin Marshall (right) at KOKL studios in Okmulgee during an episode of 'Inside Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

Tiger felt it was his duty to get back on the air for his tribal citizens to tell them what is going on with MCN.

"We provide more in depth of what is going on within the Office of the Principal Chief," Tiger said. "We go outside of the tribe too with some people or businesses who are collaborating with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We also talk to people on a national level because it affects all of us within the tribal governments."

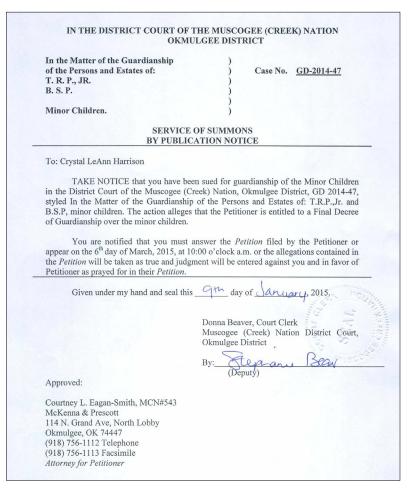
Tiger is also proud about how the show is sponsored.

"We are not using any tribal monies for the radio show," Tiger said. "None whatsoever. This show is sponsored and that is how we developed it and we got some great response for the show." Marshall said this is a good tool for the citizens and everyone else to hear from Tiger himself.

"We have a loose format with the show," Marshall said. "We have announcements and discussions and it personalizes that principal chief with the citizens."

Tiger admits that he was a little rusty getting back on the radio. He said it took him a bit but he said that with time, he knew what he was doing.

"I have been involved in radio for over five decades now," Tiger said. "It took me a couple of shows but after that, I knew what I was doing and I knew what had to be done for the show."



Heard Museum director speaks from experience



James Pepper Henry, Director and CEO of the Heard Museum who is a citizen of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma and of Muscogee (Creek) decent, spoke about his journey in the museum field.

Pepper Henry dedicated to preserving Native art

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

PHOENIX — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Cenrecently traveled to the opening of the new exhibit, Beauti-(Creek) pieces were put on display at the Heard Museum of American Indian Art and History in Phoenix.

James Pepper Henry, Director and CEO of the Heard Museum who is a citizen of the am 25 plus years later," Pepper Kaw Nation of Oklahoma and Henry said. of Muscogee (Creek) decent, spoke about his journey in his for many duties as the director profession.

"I've been in the museum make it all worth it. field for almost 29 years," Pepper Henry said.

many museums across the nation and has held many titles.

es. Some of the more notable museum," Pepper Henry said. places was, I was the interim back in the early '90s," Pepper do the same. Henry said.

the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center in Anchorage, Alaska; Smithsonian's National their museums," he said. Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.; Kanza Jan. 6 that he will return to Museum of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma and Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in Port- crease Museum in Tulsa, Okla. land, Ore.

Pepper Henry came from a new position March 30.

family of artists and musicians, who inspired him to follow in their footsteps.

Pepper Henry's uncle is Jim Pepper, who is well known for fusing American Indian songs with jazz.

"I started out as a visual artist and that was my goal, was to ter and Archives Department make my living as a visual artist," Pepper Henry said.

Pepper Henry's artwork inful Games; where Muscogee cludes sculptures from working with bronze and ceramics but also has produced paintings.

"I ended up working in museums and galleries to subsidize the art until it got going. I kept getting promoted and here I

Pepper Henry is responsible and CEO but certain moments

"I love it when families come in and they get to see some-Pepper Henry has worked in thing that their grandma, greatgrandma or grandpa made. That to me is some of the bet-"I've worked at various plac- ter moments of working in the

Pepper Henry is dedicated to curator of American Indian Art preserving American Indian art at the Portland Art Museum and history and helping others

"I really enjoy my career here Pepper Henry has worked for in the museum field and really enjoy working with the tribes and helping the tribes out with

> Pepper Henry announced Oklahoma to fill the position of executive director of the Gil-

Pepper Henry will assume his

Lighthorse Explorer of the Month: Tyler Hill

Hill shares accomplishments

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Tyler Hill as the January Explorer of the Month.

The MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department has the first tribal police explorer post in Oklahoma and is just one of a few in the United States.

"It was something different; a way to meet new people," Hill said about why he joined the program. Hill is a 17-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen from Muskogee, Okla. He has been active in the MCN Lighthorse Explorers Programs for two years and was named Explorer of the Year 2013 and a MCN Lighthorse Explorer sergeant.

"We do parades, go out and meet other people then we'll go on trips... we did one in Americus, Georgia," Hill said.

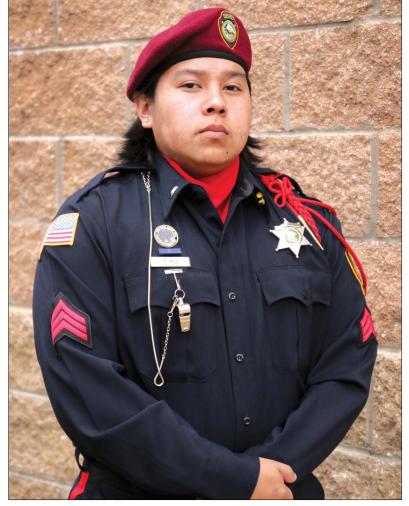
In 2014, Hill was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant and was awarded the 1st Annual Phillip Coon Leadership Award.

"I like how we can post the colors and how we can show that we're not just a police group... we can do color guard; we do marching," Hill said.

explorers program helps teach leadership skills.

"I like it when new explorers come in... kind of show them the way of what we're doing and how to catch them up," Hill said.

Hill is one of two explorers that will be receiving the Presi-



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tyler Hill is Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse January Explorer of the Month.

dent's Volunteer Service Award. According to the website, the PVSA recognizes U.S. citizens

who have achieved the required number of hours of service over a 12 month time period. He spoke about how the

program has helped him and continues to inspire him.

"It shows me that I can do a lot of things. It's just kind of up to myself of keeping me straight and not getting into drugs and alcohol," Hill said.

Hill is a junior at Muskogee High School and participates on the football, baseball and wresting teams, is a Muskogee Public Schools Title 7 Student representative, president of the Native American Student Association and serves on the Oklahoma Council on Indian Education.

Hill plans to attend college after high school and either go into the medical field or continue in law enforcement as a criminal investigator.

Outside of the Explorers Program and school, Hill enjoys hanging out with friends and playing games in his spare time.

Hill is a member of the Greenleaf Ceremonial Ground and attends All Nations Mission Center Church.

A word search from the Myskoke Language Preservation Program: Feelings

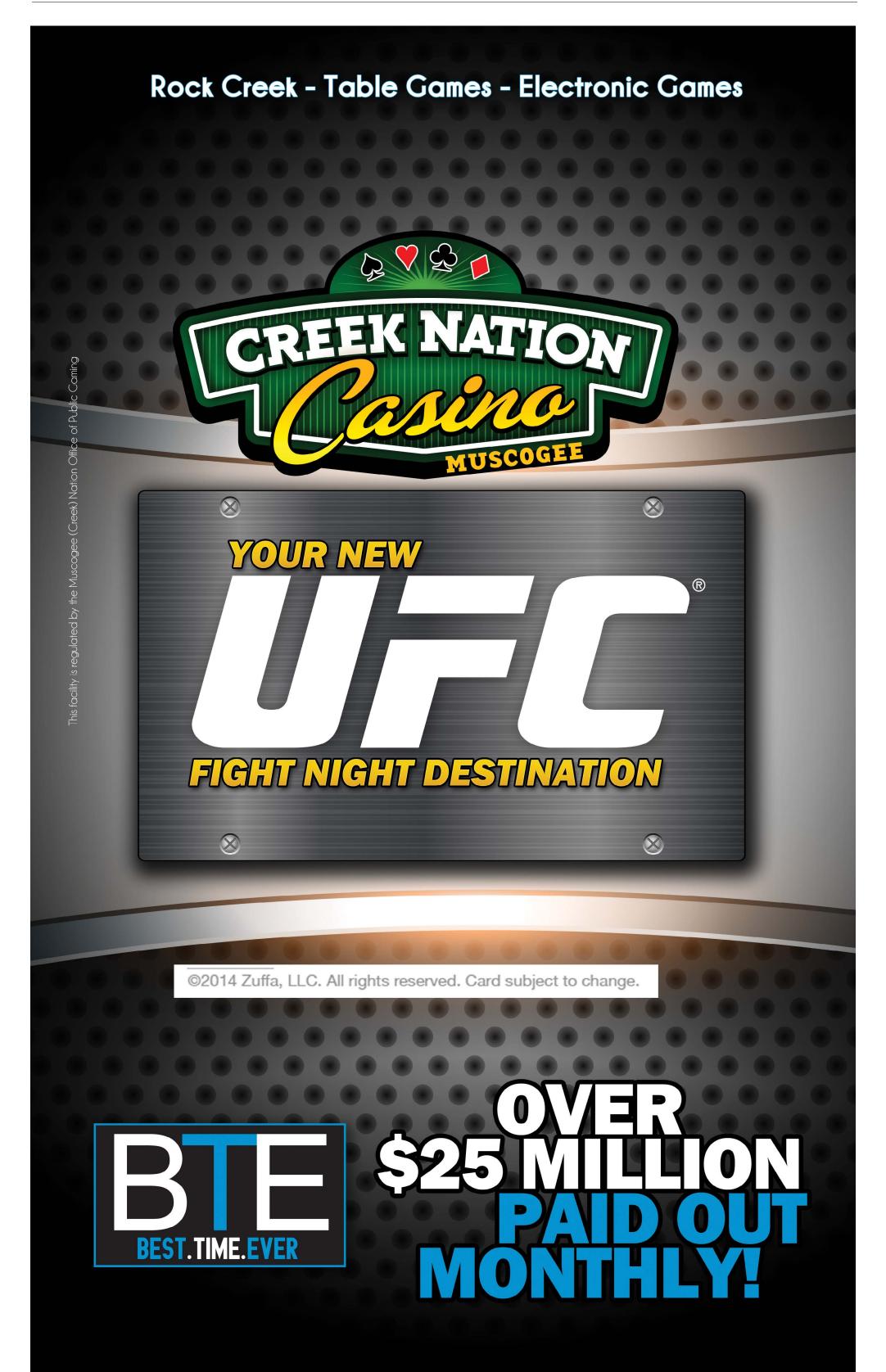
AFVCKE — Happy ENOKKE - Sick CVPAKKE — Mad EWVNHKE — Thirsty FEKNOKKE - Sad KVSVPPE — Cold HIYV — Hot VLSE — Shy HOTOSE — Tired NUCKELE — Sleepy ELVWE — Hungry VNOKECKV — Love C E E E V K C K K 0 0 Н C E N E 0 K

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF 2415 JAN)7 GD - 2015 - 02 - JC Judge John T. Cripps Minor child. NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF TO: JONATHAN ELLIS On the _____ day of _____ 2015, a Petition was filed in this Court for the Appointment of Guardian of the minor child, F.L.E, a minor child born on February 22, 2003, to Whitney Michelle Fixico Tiger, so that a guardian can be appointed for said minor child. Said Petition is set for hearing on the 3thday of February 2015 at the hour of 10.00 o'clock AM/PM before the Honorable Judge John T. Cripps in District Court in and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, located at Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447. This action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor child based on mother's absence with regard to work schedule and being unable to adequately meet the daily needs of the minor child. You are notified that you must answer the Petition filed by the Petitioner and appear at the above scheduled hearing or the allegations contained in the Petition will be taken as true and judgment will be

entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her Petition

HONORABLE JOHN T. CRIPPS JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

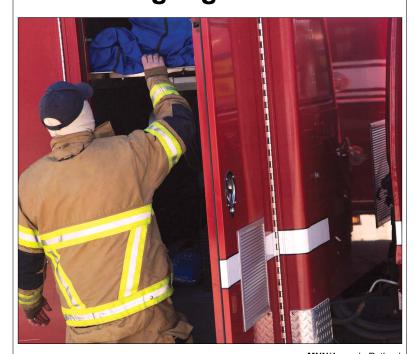
Signed and dated this _____ day of January 2015.



3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net



Preventing house fires during high risk season



The amount of house fires increases from December-February.

Safety tips for winter

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Winter temperatures have everyone working to stay warm. According to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Department Supervisor James Nichols, the amount of house fires increases from December-February.

"House fires in December, January, February double or account for half of the fires throughout the year because places and other alternate sources of heating," Nichols said.



Dryers

"Some of the most devastating fires that I have worked were [caused by] dryers," Nichols said.

Nichols recommended cleaning the lint trap after every use and cleaning out the dryer hose once a month. To clean the hose, unhook it from the wall and use a brush to loosen the lint, then shake it out.

Another way to clean the hose is by tapping or knocking on it while the dryer is running. This will loosen any debris and allow it to pass through.

"You have to think that hose clean. in most homes go from the dryer to the outside, but you have a wall in between," Nichols said. "When that fire gets inside that wall, there is not much to stop it or slow it down."

Fireplaces

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the primary cause of fireplace related house fires was a failure to clean the chimney.

Nichols said there are kits available for homeowners to clean the chimney, but suggested hiring a chimney sweep.

"It is better to have someone who is certified, a chimney sweep come in and actually do that, guarantee their work. It's dirty job," Nichols said.

Also, Nichols said to only burn seasoned wood because green wood increases build up in chimneys.

Space heaters

NFPA reported four out five fire deaths involve space heat-

Nichols said to be vigilant if utilizing a space heater. Space heaters with tip over protection are desired because they automatically shut off. Keep them at least three feet away from anything because of the amount of heat generated.

"You should have it on some of space heaters; because of fire type of solid surface, not even on carpeted floor,"

> Nichols said. Nichols said space heaters should never be plugged into an extension cord. "A space heater draws a lot of a m p s from

y o u r electrical system and it is made to plug straight into a wall," Nich-

ols said. "You put an extension cord [on it]; it makes it work harder, which is going to make it fail at some point in

Nichols also recommends checking the power cord frequently for damages and not stepping or rolling things across the cord because it could break wires on the inside that would not be visible.

General information

Nichols said in order to stay safe, keep all heating devices

"You should do a general maintenance on your furnace once a year. With it already being cold, it should have already been done. I don't think that it is ever too late to do that," Nichols said.

Nichols said general maintenance consists of making sure everything is in proper working order and replacing furnace filters regularly.

NFPA reported that smoke alarms reduce the risk of fire deaths by half.

Nichols said to replace smoke detector batteries every six months, and to have at least one smoke detector per bedroom and one in the kitchen.

For more information about pretty time consuming. It's a fire prevention, visit: www. nfpa.org.

5 ways to prevent heart disease

Tips for American **Heart Month**

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — February is American Heart Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control Native American heart disease fact sheet, heart disease is the number one cause of death Native Americans.

There are a number of ways to reduce the risk of heart disease besides regular exercise.

Avoid processed foods

processed Chemically foods tend to contain a high amount of salt and sugar. WebMD recommends eating whole foods, meaning foods that have not been processed. Whole foods contain nutrients that both prevent and repair damaged cells.

According to WebMD, some foods containing nutrients for heart health are salmon, sweet potatoes, black beans, oranges, cantaloupes and tea.

Manage stress

According to the American Heart Association, stress temporarily increases heart rate and blood pressure and when stress is constant, the body can stay in this mode for days.

Some suggested ways to lower stress are getting enough sleep. Six to eight hours is recommended. Avoid rushing to finish things by planning ahead and organizing tasks.

In an article for AHA, New York University's Center for Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease Professor of Medicine Dr. Richard A. Stein said meditating 20-30 minutes a day can lower stress.

No commercial tobacco

Smoking and chewing tobacco can lead to heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure. In an article, WebMD stated that smoking limited the amount of oxygen to the heart, increasing the likelihood of blood clots and thus heart attacks and strokes also.

Regulate diabetes

Both the CDC and the AHA agree diabetics are more to have heart disease. They recommend diet, weight and blood sugar management to lower the risk of heart disease and reduce the effects of diabetes.

Regular check ups

The CDC suggested yearly physicals because early warning signs can go unnoticed, such as an irregular heartbeat, high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

For more information about heart healthy foods, visit: www.webmd.com/ food-recipes/features/25top-heart-healthy-foods.

information For more about Native Americans and heart disease, visit: www. cdc.gov/dhdsp/data_statistics/fact-sheets/fs_alan.htm.

For more information about lowering stress, visit: www.heart. org/HEARTORG/Getting-Healthy/StressManagement/ FightStressWithHealthyHabits/ Fight-Stress-with-Healthy-Habits UCM 307992 Article.jsp.

'Elsewhen:' a romance, sci-fi, mystery rolled into one

Soulmates stranded in separate universes

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. What are your feelings towards long distance relationships? Do you feel that they can be a struggle to keep afloat?

Well imagine being separated not by a city, state or country but a universe. In Gary Bullock's new novel 'Elsewhen,' that is what happens to the two main characters.

Lije (short for Elijah) and Laura

Bess (short for Laura Elizabeth). **SPOILER ALERT**

The next four paragraphs are a plot summary.

'Elsewhen' is a story about two lovers, who can and will do anything to be together. When love of Lije's life is lost in a plane crash, little does he know that it will start a chain of events that opens the door to his happiness.

Laura Bess, it turns out, is alive and has been living in an alternate universe. This skill that she has had since childhood, which enabled her to 'step aside' from the airplane crash into another alternate reality, which she calls elsewhens.

In her universe, she works for a top-secret teleportation program; the leadership of which believes that she has stolen their secrets. She is able to 'step aside' and see Lije and he eventually learns of her situation. He then has to figure out his way to 'step aside' and be with Laura Bess.

With a timeline of events unfolding in Lije's universe, he must figure out a way for him and Laura Bess to cross over into a third elsewhen before it is too late.

Bullock is a professional actor and writer with over 25 years of experience in both film and television. He and his soulmate Mil Nicholson have also produced audiobooks.

He spoke about where the concept for his new book originated.

"Elsewhen originally began as a screenplay," Bullock said. "I got tired of how everyone was telling me what to do and what to change and that is why I turned it into a book. I decided to do it the way I wanted to." Bullock also shared that the

idea of the star-crossed lov-

ers came from his days working at a radio astronomy site.

He also incorporated Native American folklore into the story.

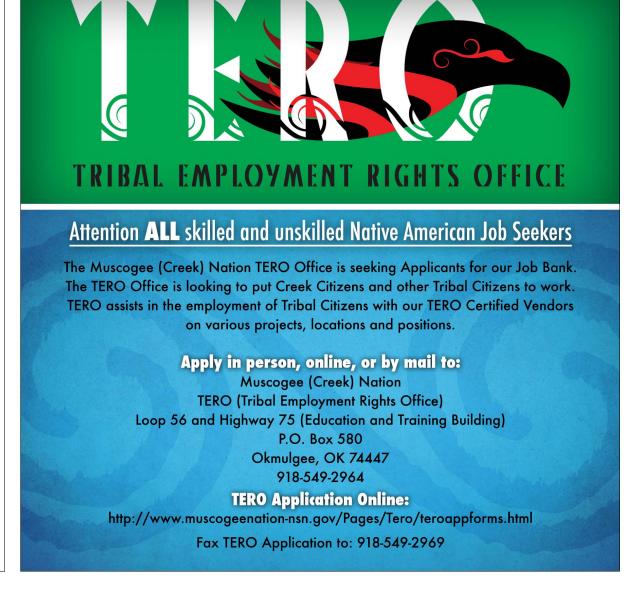
"I worked with Irene Bedard for a movie some years back," Bullock said. "She told me some things that helped with the element for American Indians theme in my story. She was a great consultant and a great help." Bullock said he some research.

"There are American Indian legends online I read on," Bullock According to Bullock, there is a sequel already in the making. A majority of the book is written out and it is a continuation from

'Elsewhen.' "There are characters who had a small role in the first book that will have more of a role in the second," Bullock said.

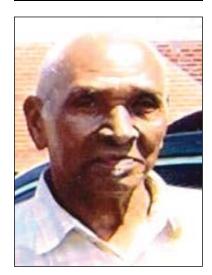
'Elsewhen' is available in softcover, hardcover and e-book. It is also available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Google Books, AuthorHouse and on audiobook through Audible.com.

For more information on 'Elsewhen,' contact Craig Cainkar at: 317-602-7137.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

ALBERT ALEXANDER



TULSA, Okla. — Mr. Albert Alexander, in his 71st season, transitioned to Eternal Rest on Tuesday Evening Dec. 30, 2014 in Tulsa. In Bald Hill, Okla., the Lord delivered a handsome gift of life to Claude and Marie Tecumseh-Alexander Feb. 1, 1943. They named this new son Albert Alexander, better known as 'Bonnie.'

Albert's loving parents raised him along with his two brothers, Robert 'Ruff' and Manuael 'Sonny' in Bald Hill. Albert attended Harper's Chapel Grade School, Rural Route, Muskogee County and Wheatley High School in Beggs, Okla. He also attended Concharty Indian Church in Okmulgee County.

Mr. Alexander was employed as a brick mason for many years and left a mark of his trade within Haskell and various surrounding communities. 'Bonnie' loved socializing with family and friends and always greeted you with a warm smile and hug.

He leaves to lament his death his: sons, Mario of Bald Hill and Preston of California; daughters, Tina Jessie-Martinez and Anessa Terry-Gilbert, both of Washington, D.C.; 10 granddaughters; three grandsons and a host of other relatives and friends.

The Final Hour with Mr. Alexander was Jan. 10, 2015 in the First Baptist Church of Haskell, Okla. Pastor Gary McKeen was the gracious host and Pastor Ardell Braden officiated.

MARCUS HARJO



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Marcus Lee Harjo, 30, of Holdenville passed away Friday, Jan. 2, 2015. Marcus was born on Feb. 5, 1984 to Carol Harjo in Ada, Okla.

His grandfather, Newman Harjo Jr. was an important male role model for Marcus teaching him the values and morals of life as well the importance of his Native American heritage.

Marcus looked up to his grandfather and treasured their time spent together. He attended Holdenville Public Schools and graduated in 2003 and later attended Seminole State College.

Marcus married Staci Plato Jan. 14, 2012. Together the couple had four children whom Marcus loved more than anything.

Being active in his children's school activities and summer athletics programs was important to Marcus. Marcus was a very quiet man who had a wonderful sense of humor.

He was always willing to help anyone with any project that came along. He was cheerful man who always had a big grin ready for those he met.

He worked for the Hughes County Conservation District as an engineering aide.

He was active in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation where he loved to mentor young people. His favorite hobby was grilling and everybody loved his food after he had sent up his smoke signals.

Preceding him death are his: grandmother, Cindy Lee Harjo; great-grandmother, Cora Mae Lowe and great-uncle Dandy Harjo.

Survivors include his: wife, Staci of the home; children, Chase Harjo, Kehl Harjo, Alyc Harjo and Kilian Harjo all of Holdenville; mother, Carol Harjo of Holdenville; grandfather, Newman Harjo Jr. of Holdenville; special cousin, Timothy Harjo; aunts, Kay Harjo, Penny Harjo, Colleen Jackson; uncles Glenn Harjo, Thomas Harjo and Pedro Garcia all of Holdenville; great-uncle, Edward Harjo of Okemah, Okla.; cousins, Nick Jackson, Kenza Jackson, Scotty Puente and son, Silas Puente, and Destiny Mathis all of Holdenville as well as a host of other family and friends.

Visitation with family was scheduled Jan. 5 at the Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville followed by a meal at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center.

Wake service was scheduled for Jan. 6 at the Greenleaf Baptist Church in Okemah, Oklahoma. Funeral service was scheduled Jan. 7 at the Greenleaf Baptist Church in Okemah, Okla.

Pallbearers are: Timothy Harjo, Nicholas Jackson, Jerod Tiger, Raynor Oliphant, Jon Lowe, Thomas Harjo, Emilio Martinez and Tommy Taylor.

Honorary bearers are: Brandon Puente, Jeremiah Moppin, Zack Harjo, Jon Moppin, GC

Twomey and Stormi Harjo. Interment followed at Holdenville Cemetery in Holdenville.

Services are under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral

Online condolences to the family can be made at: www.phillipsfuneralservice.com.

An online guestbook is available at: www.PhillipsFuner-alService.com.

ROSINA JOHNSON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Rosina Jean Johnson, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Monday, Jan. 5, 2015 at the age of 67. She was born Dec. 4, 1947, to Lewis and Neazetah Roberts-

Starr in Okmulgee.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Okmulgee and she worked in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Library as a Cultural Preservationist.

She was preceded in death by her: husband, Bo Johnson; parents, Lewis and Neazetah Starr; son, Jeffrey Lance Johnson; brothers, Josh Starr, Amos Starr, Tony Starr and Lincoln Starr and sisters, Millie Yardy and Lena Starr.

Survivors include her: daughter, Angela Johnson-Warkentin and husband, Keith; son, John Johnson; sisters, Loretta Yahola-Griffin and husband, David and Pauline Proctor; brother, Geronimo Starr; grandchildren, Zachary Johnson, Madison Johnson, Jacob Johnson and Alexis Johnson; great-grandchildren, Holley Love, Caidence Johnson and McKenzie Johnson and numerous other relatives and friends.

Services were held Friday, Jan. 9, 2015 at the First Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Dr. Dennis Taylor officiating.

Burial followed the service at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Visitation was held at the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers are: Robin Soweka, Charles Kelly, Alan King, Charles Hicks, David Griffin and Rovin Soweka Jr.

Friends may send their condolences to: <u>www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com</u>.

THOMAS TIGER



TULSA, Okla. — Thomas Tiger, 87 of Sapulpa went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014 at Hillcrest Medical Center, Tulsa. He was born Feb. 8, 1927 in Coweta, Okla., to Benjamin and Sallie Smith-Tiger

He was a welder by trade and served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a member of Picket Chapel United Methodist Church. He liked to work on cars, whittle

and was a cane maker.

He is survived by his: wife,
Lenora Tiger of the home; children, Gary Tiger, Sandra Black
and Thomas Benjamin Tiger;
siblings, Nancy McIntosh and
Gertie Nobles.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, Benjamin and Sallie Tiger; brothers, John Tiger, Henry Tiger; sisters, Virginia Noble, Melissa McCoy and three infant sisters.

Wake services were held Dec. 22, 2014 at Picket Chapel United Methodist Church in Sapulpa, Okla. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014 at Picket Chapel United Methodist Church in Sapulpa. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, 1208 S. Main St, Sapulpa, OK.

MCN to host 2015 Trading at the River Conference and Native Marketplace

ONABEN/Media Release

PORTLAND, Ore. — ONA-BEN (Our Native American Business Network) announces the city for the annual Trading at the River Conference and Native Marketplace.

The conference, held for the last 11 years in Oregon and Washington, will be held May 2015 in Tulsa, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host the conference and Native marketplace at their properties, River Spirit Casino and RiverWalk.

Trading at the River is a twoday event that focuses on content to facilitate growing strong economies in Indian Country.

Veronica Hix, ONABEN Executive Director, expressed her appreciation at the opportunity to bring Trading at the River to Oklahoma.

"Trading at the River is a unique experience for entrepreneurs, small business owners and economic development practitioners to gather, exchange and grow. The change in venue next year will be a great opportunity to be able to share Trading at the River outside of the Pacific Northwest."

ONABEN Board Chairman, Jack Lenox, also commented that, "The Muscogee (Creek) Nation offered to host our event and, in line with ONABEN's growth and expanded services across Indian country, the ONABEN Board of Directors approved the city and venue change."

ONABEN will also partner with the Cherokee Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office and Myskoke Loan Fund to present Trading at the River. Anchoring the conference is a marketplace where Native artists, crafters and other vendors can showcase and sell their products and services.

For more information contact Selena Yokoyama at: 503-968-1500.

TCIC ELECTION SET FOR FEB. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Feb. 17 from 6-8 p.m. for the treasurer position.

The deadline for letters of intent and the \$20 payment for background checks is Feb. 6 by 5 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

WATSON FAMILY RE-UNION SET FOR FEB. 21

DEWAR, Okla. — A Watson family reunion is set for Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Dewar Indian Community Center. Please bring a covered

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 21

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel, 8815 E 101 St., Tulsa OK, has set a wild onion dinner for March 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dinners, which include: wild onions, brown beans, salt meat or ham, frybread and a vegetable, desert and drink are \$4 for children and \$8 for adults.

For more information call Sandra Bible at: 918-815-7973.

Clarification regarding at-large voting

MCN Election Board/Media Release

Did you know that 'at-large voting' does not refer or apply, to where a citizen can vote?

It does not mean and was not meant for your convenience, as a voter, to vote anywhere you want on election day.

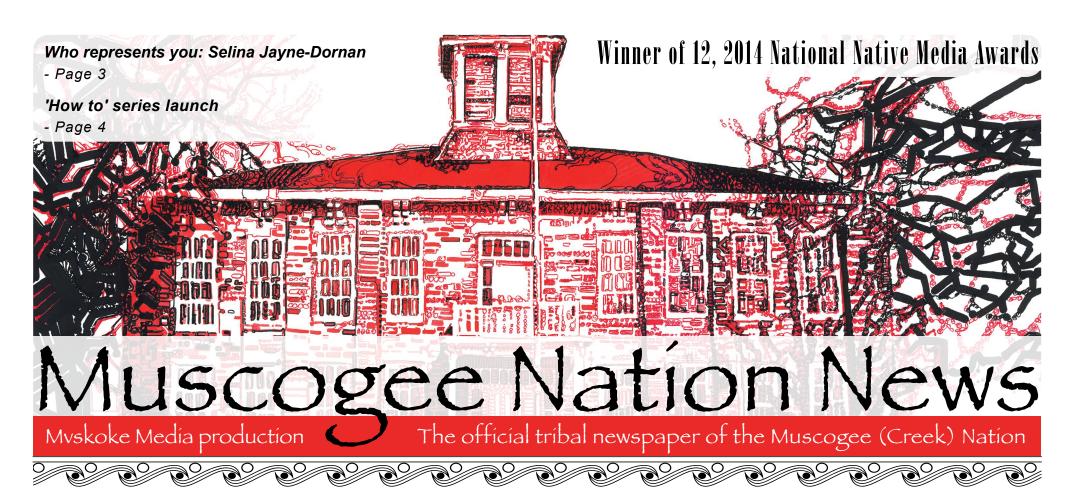
You can vote in a precinct other than your own, but you will be 'challenged' by precinct workers and must prove that you are a registered voter in whatever precinct you normally vote. Your 'challenge' vote will be reviewed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board after the polls close, to determine its validity. Your 'challenge' vote is also compared to the absentee ballot forms returned, to make sure an absentee ballot in your name, has not already been cast. This process creates extra work for everyone involved in the voting process and increases the time it takes to tally all votes. It's the main reason why, even though the polls close at 7 p.m., final election results may not be available until midnight or after. The election board is reviewing every individual 'challenge' vote.

If you want convenience, request an absentee ballot request form from the election board office and one will be sent to your address of record. Fill it out; return it and prior to the election, an absentee ballot will be sent to you. You can then, in a timely manner, vote your ballot, sign it (with the same signature you used on your voter registration form), put it back in the postage paid envelope included with your ballot and drop it in the mailbox and then make sure it gets to Okmulgee before 10 a.m. on election day.

The Constitutional Convention in 2008 produced two significant changes to our representation. The first reduced the number of representatives per district. Prior to this change, the number of representatives per district was determined by the number of citizens in that district. Voting districts with larger citizen populations had more MCN National Council representatives than those with smaller populations. At that time, registered voters could only vote for the candidate(s) running in their district and once elected, that Council representative primarily represented his/her district.

The second change, better stated as 'at large representation,' refers to the new process that lets voters vote in every Council race, regardless of where he or she lives. Voters must still cast their vote at their own district precinct or by absentee ballot.

The idea behind 'at large voting' was that our representatives are elected by voters, in every district, and will, therefore, serve 'at-large;' meaning they represent not only their individual districts but must and be aware of the concerns of the citizens in every district. If you have any questions, please contact the Election Board at: 918-732-7631.



Tiger delivers 2015 State of the Nation Address

Principal chief outlines accomplishments, goals

George Tiger/MCN Principal Chief

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 'The Mvskoke Way' is very sacred and has served as the theme for this administration and is paramount in respecting the ways of our elders, our tradition and culture, the ways our children and generations that will follow, are what is considered our way. That we will always honor those ways is our will and desire. This State of Nation represents the strides we have made to assure our continuation of 'The Mvskoke Way.'

The purpose this morning is to report to you in this State of Nation as mandated by the Constitution of the great Muscogee (Creek) Nation, our progress and successes over this past calendar year with the support of the National Council.

We made a commitment to our citizens that we would be aggressive and progressive and that 'status quo' was no longer acceptable. I have heard from hundreds of citizens near and far who are excited in



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger delivered the MCN State of the Nation Address Jan. 31. at the Mound auditorium on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Nation. We have continued to use the dominant themes of 'peoplehood' and 'nationhood' to tribal sovereign. It is a fact this administration, the previous and current legislature has exercised sovereignty to its fullest with initiatives implemented to improve and expand service for our citizens.

This morning, my State of

the accomplishments of their Nation will be very simple. The emphasis was to use our resources, citizens, employees, financial means and working in achieve success as a self-sufficient a unified effort as elected officials to invest in ourselves as a Nation. no funds came from MCN The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is strong as ever.

Health

A survey I commissioned was taken prior to this administration taking office. It reflected citizens

wanted and needed improved and expanded health care. The former Okmulgee Memorial Hospital was purchased by assuming its debt of more than \$5 million, treasury. Today, I am pleased to report the assumed debt in just eleven months now stands at \$70,000. It is providing much needed and expanded health

Address - 2

Feb. 15, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 4 "Rvfo Cuse" Winter's Younger Brother



Funding authorized for satellite offices during Council session

Legislation approved to create Muscogee **Nation Businesses** LLC

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a quarterly session Jan. 31 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Principal Chief George Tiger delivered the State of the Nation address to a full auditorium. Tiger's speech detailed MCN accomplishments in 2014 as well as his vision for 2015.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- NCR 15-001 Selecting James K. Byrd to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise Board of Directors. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-003 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Siemens medical service agreement between MCN Medical Center and Siemens Medical Solutions USA. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-004 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract on behalf of the MCN Department of Health and the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-005 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a uniform hospital affiliation agreement on behalf of MCNDH and the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Barnett sponsored the resolution,

Council ~ 5

MCN presents historical map of Tulsa to mayor

Map outlines Tulsa family allotments

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger presented a map to Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett that displays the original Creek allotments along with modern day Tulsa Jan. 23, at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum in Tulsa.

"It shows who the original allottees were for a considerable amount of the area in and around our fine city Tulsa, Oklahoma," Bartlett said. "It is very interesting. It certainly gives us a real serious tie to our history to those that preceded us and started Tulsa."

The work is a combination of two maps, a layer that illustrates the early tribal allotted lands overlaid onto a map of Tulsa.

"Creek citizens were each allotted 160 acres of land," Tiger



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger presented a map Jan. 23 to Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett that displays the original Muscogee (Creek) allotments along with modern day Tulsa at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum in Tulsa, Okla.

said. "These allotments covered the entire area stretching from Admiral Boulevard to 121st Street South and from Mingo Road to 65th W. Avenue."

The map indicates the names of the families that received allotments and where those lands would be located in modern Tulsa.

"The map shows the names of many prominent Tulsa families such as the Perrymans, Graysons, Bruners, Blands and Partridge to name just a few," Tiger said.

Descendants of the Perryman family, J.D. Colbert and Shelby Navarro completed the map project.

"They felt like it was something that had to be done in terms of providing some type of document for history," Tiger said. "They got together and were able to really collaborate with some other documents that were available historically on the allotted land of our ancestors."

According to an MCN press release, the map uses data from 'Hastain's Township Plats of the Creek Nation' published by E. Hastain in 1910. Also represented, are prominent city landmarks along with how the name of Tulsa evolved from the Creek language 'Tvlvhasse,' meaning 'Old Town.'

"All Tulsans should be proud of this rich history shared by Indian and non-Indian alike. As

Map-2



MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

INTERIM DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE

jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST **GARY FIFE** gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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GEENATIONNEWS



MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

MNBE closes Stone Blade restaurant

MCN to evaluate new plan for property

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises closed Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar Jan. 26 after two years in business.

"We went ahead and shut it down. It was not a profitable operation... The building's an older building and a bigger building so, you know; it wasn't feasible to continue our operations with that," MNBE CEO Woody Anderson said.

The restaurant was located in the old Okmulgee Country Club. Muscogee (Creek) Nation purchased the building and 159-acre golf course in May 2012 for \$3.6 million.

Anderson elaborated that after the property was purchased, MNBE put a lot of work and money into readying the building for the restaurant's opening in December 2012. He stated that Stone Blade had not been profitable since it was opened.

"When MNBE took over or was assigned those operations, it was on a temporary basis and it ended up for a longer period of time. But what happens is that facility is it's a beautiful facility but it's got a lot of high maintenance with it," Anderson said.

Around 16 employees were associated with the restaurant when it closed. Part-time employees will receive two weeks of severance pay and full-time employees will receive four weeks.

"If there's anything we can do to help them, you know; get over in some other positions with the Nation; we'll do whatever we can



The Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise operated Stone Blade Restaurant and Bar in Okmulgee, Okla., closed Jan. 26 after two years in husiness

do help them," Anderson said. Anderson stated that MNBE is working with MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe in order to honor events that have been scheduled at the facility in the coming months.

Anderson estimated that MNBE will save \$25,000-\$30,000 month after closing the restaurant.

MNBE was formed through the U.S. Small Business Administration 8 (a) Business Development Program, which assists small, disadvantaged businesses in competing in the marketplace. MCN established MNBE to support economic development for MCN outside of gaming.

we've done for a number of years has been in the government contracting; doing federal work and that type of stuff," Anderson said. "We were asked to step in on this and we're glad to do that for our tribe to try and get these things going."

Anderson thanked everyone who supported Stone Blade including customers and employees.

"We tried to make a difference there and I think we have," Anderson said.

The future of the building is unknown, but Anderson is confident that the property will be put to good use.

"The Creek Nation will come up with a really grand plan for the property," Anderson said.

ADDRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

care to all citizens. The former George Nigh physical rehab center through investment funds saved from third party collections, not from MCN treasury purchased the facility. A new Express Care clinic was opened in Okmulgee. The very first tribally owned and operated Dialysis Center began operation at the Koweta Clinic with plans to add other centers as we update our facilities. The very first MRI unit is being completed in Okmulgee.

A service at one time that was contracted out will now allow savings of those funds to be used within our health system. The installation of Electronic Health Record for hospital and clinics in compliance with mandated policy for all hospitals and clinics though out the country. Acquired a Home Health for, purchased a DME for easier access to supplies for our citizens. Increased third party collections to 22 million a year. The goal next year is 25 to 30 million. The addition of additional services such as a chiropractor, orthopedic surgeon, two full time podiatrists, wound care program and an orthodontist. We're currently negotiating for oral surgeon and a pediatric dentist. We acquired accreditation for the Okemah hospital and are waiting to receive accreditation for our clinics. We just finalized funding for the new hospital in Okemah, and the new Eufaula clinic. The clinic is a joint venture with Indian Health Service and we anticipate breaking ground in the next two months for the facility.

I believe we have an excellent start in achieving the wishes of our citizens in improving and expanding our health services.

Department of Interior

Realty Trust Services processed 64 acres of land from fee to trust status further enhancing MCN sovereignty and jurisdiction. We're working with the Nation's lobbyist in approvals granted on 38 of 64 pending applications with 12-15 additional parcels scheduled for approval. Oil and Gas negotiated and executed a MCN oil and gas agreement, the first since 1898 and surpassing previous federal standards and

Address - 5

Reintegration teaches course at Ivy League school in Indian Country, we are doing

"Our main deal really that



Submission

L to r: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Senior Case Manager Sprint Williams, Harvard University Honoring Nations Director Megan Hill, RIP Manager Tony Fish and Ford Foundation professor and Honoring Nations Associate Director Joseph Kalt.

Program travels to Cambridge

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — One Muscogee (Creek) Nation program recently made a trip to one of the most prestigious colleges in the world.

The MCN Reintegration Program were invited to Cambridge, Mass., for a weeklong course at Harvard University. Although some people attend this institution to learn, two Reintegration staff members actually went to teach.

"We were invited out to Harvard to speak to the students there and tell them about our

department and what we do," RIP Manager Tony Fish said.

The four-day course taught from Jan. 13-16, was a part of a larger curriculum called Native Americans in the 21st Century: Nation Building.

Representatives from tribes around Alaska and other countries such as Canada were also among the guest speakers.

According to Fish, RIP is one of the top programs of its kind among the Native American tribes throughout the United States. He feels that this is the reason why Harvard University wanted the program to participate in the weeklong course.

"We are a model program," Fish said. "They wanted to show the students at Harvard that out everything we can for the betterment of our people, our citizens. RIP Senior Case Manager

Sprint Williams believes RIP made the most of the opportunity. "I felt we made an impact

when it was our turn to have the discussion for our program," Williams said. "They had a better understanding of what we do and how we help our citizens for the tribe."

RIP was allowed 45 minutes to discuss their topic.

"We basically talked about what the program does, the 'ins and outs' and what it entails," Williams said. "Some of the people who attended the course were not aware that a program like ours event existed."

The discussion was immediately followed by a question and answer session, which was suppose to take an hour and 15 minutes but turned into a longer discussion.

"Overall, it was a great discus-

"We had questions about the program and we also had a lot of feedback on how to better the program. Mainly, it was everyone wanting to know more about us," Williams said.

Overall, Williams was delight-

"We were excited to get the invite," Williams said. "The experience was amazing and unbelievable."

Fish stated that Harvard paralleled this sentiment.

"The instructor said we had done a fabulous job with our presentation," Fish said.

MAP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mayor, I am pleased to receive this map with the hope that it will continue to build awareness of Tulsa's unique history," Bartlett said.

The map will be displayed at the Tulsa City Hall and at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum.

Prints of the map can be purchased for \$75 by contacting the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum at: 918-712-9484 or online at: <u>www.</u> tulsahistory.org.

Who represents you: Selina Jayne-Dornan



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Selina Jayne-Dornan discusses taking the first step out of her comfort zone, which would eventually be the gateway to a career in Hollywood and politics.

Makeup artist turned politician seeks to serve

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On the first day of her junior year at Eufaula High School, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Selina Jayne-Dornan was terrified after receiving her class schedule.

The last class the timid wallflower wanted to take was speech, so she rushed to the counselor's office to beg and plead to be switched to a subject she found more fitting.

Selina did not receive the answer she wanted, but was able to compromise. She would attend speech the first day and if she absolutely hated it, then the counselor would place her in a different class.

"The first thing he made me do was stand up and say who I was," Selina said. "But, you know; I did it. It was like a hurdle for me."

Selina blossomed into the manage Seven Hills Pictures. world of drama soon after, receiving 'Outstanding Student' in speech and drama her senior year.

Taking the speech class would be the nudge Selina needed to pursue acting and eventually

As the first in her family to receive higher education, Selina graduated from Eastern Oklahoma State College.

In the years after high school, Selina was encouraged by the people around her and inspired to experience life outside of what she knew in Eufaula.

"It's not just the jobs but the people that you meet and how they affect you, and what they do just to add to your life," Selina said. "It's just the little things."

After college, Selina was a part of the American Indian Theatre Company in Tulsa, Okla., and appeared in Honda commercials.

But it was the late Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks who would open her eyes to the bright lights of Hollywood.

The two had lunch together one day and Hicks asked if she enjoyed acting. After Selina responded 'yes,' Hicks asked, "Well, why are you here?"

"That was all it took," Selina said. "The next thing I knew, I put my house on the market... I set my goals and reached my goals and within six months, you know; I moved out there."

Selina wanted to support herself while pursuing her acting career, so she enrolled in makeup school. She graduated at the top of her class, and enjoyed working on 'D' movies and learning about the business.

Her first big break came on TNT's 'Broken Chain,' where she worked in the makeup department.

Selina attributed her success to networking with people in the business.

She landed acting roles in '3 Ninjas Knuckle Up' and 'Grizzly Adams and the Legend of Dark Mountain.' However, Selina started to see her acting career become sidelined.

"It seemed like the more I was there, the more makeup jobs I was getting," Selina said. "It soon came to the point that I was so busy working makeup that I didn't have time to go to auditions."

She landed her first 'A' list film as a makeup artist for 'Air Force One,' starring Harrison Ford. Selina also worked on 'Boston Public,' 'Bring It On,' 'That 70s Show,' and 'Geronimo.'

Selina learned that actors are sometimes very different than how the public perceives them.

"They all have their persona on film, but they're just real people off film," Selina said. "I met a lot of good people."

From being on the set of different TV shows and movies, Selina would take another step into the world of producing.

She received the chance to

"I learned how to handle things and to make things happen and became a very good multi-tasker," Selina said.

The owner of the company desired to move the company to New York, so two days before the scheduled move, Selina decided to stay in Los Angeles. She returned to being a makeup artist until she began to feel homesick.

After thirteen years in L.A., Selina called it a wrap and returned home to search for a job with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to give back and learn more about the tribe.

She was hired by the MCN Executive Director's Office and then was compelled by the needs of citizens to run for MCN National Council.

She served as a McIntosh District representative from 2009-2011. While serving on the Council, Selina noticed a gap between tribal and local governments.

She ran for mayor of Eufaula, Okla., in 2011 in order to connect the two governments. Her term will end in April.

Currently, Selina serves as MCN part-time gaming commissioner, on the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, and Eufaula Indian Community vice-chair.

She hopes to continue to serve and assist people in any way she is needed.

Selina suggested that trying is the key to finding success, talent and happiness. She encourages others to venture out of their comfort zone and take that scary speech class.

"Take that step, walk through that door and see what happens," Selina said.

Selina is a member of the Wotko (Raccoon) Clan and Yufalv-Cvnete Tribal Town. She is the daughter of the late Janetta Walker of Eufaula and the wife of Jim Dornan.

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How to: apply for a position at MCN

Get prepared; get employed

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. When applying for a job, some people may not realize that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has four different human resource departments with different applications.

The MCN Human Resource Department hires for what are considered government jobs, which are positions that are organized under the executive, legislative or judicial branches.

Some of the departments considered to be government jobs are: finance, housing, social services and tribal construction services.

The MCN Department of Health Human Resource Department hires for all health jobs.

MCN casinos hire for most gaming jobs except surveillance and Office of Public Gaming positions. These are handled as MCN government jobs.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise hires for positions such as the travel plazas in Okmulgee and Muskogee, Okla.

Most of the applications ask for the same information, but there are slight differences. This is a walkthrough of the application.

Step 1 Gather all the information needed. This will save time later.

Required information:

- o email address
- o date of birth
- o Social Security number
- o phone number/alternate phone number
- o tribal roll number
- o blood quantum
- o emergency contacts-phone numbers
- o education history-where when
- o professional licenses
- o previous employers addresses, phone numbers, dates o references

Note: MCN casinos require three references; two that are acquaintances of five years or lon-



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation employment is classed under four different entities: MCN Human Resources, MCN Department of Health Human Resources, MCN Casinos and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise.

ger and another of at least one year. MCN casinos will not accept family members as references.

Complete the application.

The MCN application is available on the MCN website: www.mcn-nsn.gov. Follow the job opportunities link under the careers tab. MCN HR only accepts online applications.

There is also a kiosk available at the MCN HR department to access the application.

MCNDH only accepts online applications as well. They can be found under the jobs tab at: www.creekhealth.org.

The MCN casino application is online at: www.creekcasinojobs.com. In order to navigate to the application, click the career opportunities link. It will bring up a search engine to locate jobs by type or location.

Once a job opening list is displayed, select the link to the position and the apply button will be displayed. Plan for least 30-45 minutes to complete this application.

MNBE only accepts paper applications. Applications can be picked up in person at the MNBE office, 1018 South Wood Drive in Okmulgee, or printed from under the employment tab at: www.mnbe.com.

Tips

When completing the application, fill it out completely. is a written ap-If it plication, write neatly.

Include a resume with the application and check it for typos and misspelled words and also have another person review it.

"Attach a resume is probably the best tip I could offer with detailed work experience because that application and resume is the only way you have to sell yourself to the manager that is reviewing your application," MCN HR Specialist II Greg Walker said.

For help writing a resume, contact MCN Employment and Training Department Career Specialists Jessina McBee or Kimberly Martel at: 918-732-7777. McBee also recommended OKJobMatch. com for resume building.

"As soon as they get through creating their account, it starts off by creating their resume," McBee said. "Whenever they get through, it formats it for them."

For more information about job opportunities at MCN, contact HR at: 918-732-7827 or visit: <u>www.mus-</u> cogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/ Employment/positions.html.

For more information about MCNDH job opportunities, contact HR at: 918-756-4333 or visit: http://creekhealth.org/ index.php/employment/jobs.

more information MCN about casino jobs email: casino.com or visit: http:// www.creekcasinojobs.com/ jobs/Pages/SearchJobs.aspx.

For more information about MNBE jobs, contact Kerrie Fisher at: 918-752-3158.

How to: break up with a significant other

FVPP encourages direct, firm and safe approach

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. Whether it is the day before Valentine's Day, a week after Christmas or a month before a birthday, there is not a bad day to end a relationship when nec- life.

there anymore, or the relationship has become unhealthy; either way Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program does not recommend staying with a partner just to make it through a holi-

"If you want out, get out," FVPP Youth Advocate Gwynn Ridge said.

and are both working to fix it, it is unlikely that something will

While these ways may avoid confrontation; ignoring the person, waiting for a fight or getting a friend to relay the change of heart are not recommended.

Step 1 - Have a plan.

Once the decision is made, make a plan for when and where to break the news. Ridge suggested writing down words to say to avoid nervousness.

or trusted friend can also be

Step 2 - Break up in person.

Many have heard of a person ending a relationship through text message or changing their relationship status on Facebook. FVPP recommends cutting the strings face-to-face.

Bringing a friend can provide support for cold feet and may also be helpful for protecting against potential retaliation.

FVPP recommends thinking about safety first if the relationship has been violent and telling a friend of your intentions, taking someone with you and meeting in a public setting.

"You never know what someone's reaction is going to be in those types of situations," FVPP Sexual Assault Advocate Mitzi Pope said.

Step 3 - Be assertive, firm and

Be confident, persistent and straightforward with the meeting's purpose and intentions afterwards.

Make a clean break and as difficult as it may be, do not try to lead the person to believe that there might still be a chance.

"...being able to say that verbally with your body language and your facial expression... that comes off different than it does in a text message," Pope

Avoid being cruel and heartless to the other person. Break ups are not pleasant and saying harsh words will just make matters worse.

Step 4 - Move forward.

Take pleasure in friendships instead of dwelling on the loss of a boyfriend or girlfriend.

Be aware of rebounding. Take time to heal before jumping into a new relationship.

FVPP encourages teens to learn to be an individual and work towards their own goals and aspirations instead of just pleasing their partner.

Step 5 - Search for a new relationship based upon equality, respect and individuality.

Ridge said that a relationship should not dictate a person's

"They should still be able to Maybe the feelings are not live their individual lives and be their individual person," Ridge

> Advocacy site <u>www.loveisre-</u> spect.org suggests that equality in a relationship includes: being free to explore your own interests, being able to express yourself in an argument and coming to a compromise and feeling safe with your partner.

The site recommends looking Ridge said that unless the for a partner who is not excescouple has discussed an issue sively negative, does not get angry with you about spending time with friends and family, respects boundaries and is up-

Step 6 - Learn relationship dos and don'ts.

Speak up about a friend's relationship. This can help someone understand healthy versus unhealthy relationships and be the reassurance they need to make a move in the opposite direction.

Do not 'play fight.' According to FVPP, pretending to push, Seeking advice from an adult shove or hit someone is not a foundation of a healthy relationship no matter the intention or gentleness of the force.

Ridge said that play fighting is one person showing dominance over another and can evolve into other violent behav-

According to statistics provided in 2009 by the Liz Claiborne Inc. and Family Violence Prevention Fund, in one year, one in three teens will experience sexual or physical abuse or threats from a boyfriend or girlfriend.

FVPP recommends that teens be aware of extreme jealousy in relationships.

According to www.stoptheviolence.org, jealousy in teen relationships can lead to controlling behavior, possessiveness, manipulation and threats.

Harassment over social media and texting is another issue in teen relationships.

In a 2007 Fifth and Pacific Companies survey of teens in the U.S., half of those surveyed said they used instant messaging to communicate with their partner one or more times per hour. One quarter of those surveyed said they contacted each other at least 30 times per hour

In the same report, 27 percent of teens stated they have been text 'checked' by their partners 10 or more times per hour. Nine percent stated that they were 'checked' by their partners more than 50 times an

FVPP encourages parents to talk to their teens about healthy and unhealthy relationships.

To find out what constitutes a healthy and unhealthy relationship, visit: www.breakthecycle. org, www.nomore.org or www. loveisrespect.org.

For more information about MCN Family Violence Prevention Program contact: 918-732-

How to: apply for foster care or adoption

Myskoke children need Myskoke **families**

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According Muscogee (Creek) Nation Foster Care and Adoption Certification and Recruitment Program Manager Robyn Wind, it is vital that we have Muscogee (Creek) homes for our Muscogee (Creek) children who are currently in tribal custody.

"We would love to have more Creek families taking care of the children that are in our custody," FCACRP Manager Robyn Wind said. "Having more Creek families taking care of our children will help keep our culture alive." instrucare how apply: tions on

Step 1 — Gather all the information needed. This will save time later.

to

Required information:

- Driver's license
- Social Security cards
- Tribal Citizenship or Certificate Degree of Indian Blood

cards for the applicants

- Copies of birth certificate (original or copies)
- Marriage or divorce decrees if applicable (original or copies)

Step 2 — Complete the application

Currently, the application is not available online. It can be delivered to you in person by: mail, email or fax.

- Background check is required
- Anyone over the age of 18 will need a background check and child welfare history.
- Background check will take approximately 24 hours.
- List six personal references. Only two may be family mem-
- Applicants will also need to do a fingerprint check. Fingerprint appointment will
- be set up by FCACRP. Fingerprint results should take approximately four - five
- Should applicants have pets, they will need to provide a copy of up-to-date pet vaccinations
- for each pet. Note: A child welfare his-

tory form is a form sent in to the U.S. Department of Human Services from the FCACRP. DHS will check their database to see if the applicants have been in a welfare case or if a referral has been called on them and also the outcome. DHS sends that report to FCACRP.

Step 3 — Obtain Medical **Examination**

Note: The physical will need to be done as soon as possible and preferably, be turned in with the application.

Step 4 — Home Visit

Note: After application process is finished, a home visit will be scheduled. The assessment is to make sure that the home is safe for the child or children. There will also be a home study interview later with the department about the applicant's life.

FCACRP is now able to send applications to Muscogee (Creek) families who do not reside in the MCN jurisdiction or the State of Oklahoma. However, this is available for adoption only.

For more information regarding foster care or adoption, contact FCACRP at: 918-732-7869.

benefits to MCN.

The MCN Conservation Commission signed a Memorandum of Agreement with U.S. Department of Agriculture to better serve restricted landowners and put allotted lands back into production. This essentially creates direct funding opportunities for various programs that will aid our Muscogee land owners.

Federal Roads constructed, reconstructed and surfaced 56 miles of road. That's a total

value of \$4.6 million on these projects. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ADDRESS

The program was awarded the Best Asphalt Road for the Old Highway 62 project by the Oklahoma Asphalt Pavement Association. A Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was completed in April. This document will guide current and future road projects within the 11 county jurisdiction. We dedicated a new Transportation Building that offices TTP Manager, Federal Roads and Transportation and dedicated the Okemah Pedestrian Bridge; a collaborative effort with the City of Okemah, Okfuskee County, and Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Tribal Planning was established in February and updated the MCN Capitol Complex Master Plan and a Comprehensive Socioeconomic Profile for planning projects and programs.

in December.

Environmental Services reports over 70-100,000 lbs. Address - 7

of material recycled in 2014. The department also tested the water quality for all of the Nation's water resources.

Tribal Construction Services was directly involved in construction and completion of 11 MCN buildings, adding to the Nation's infrastructure and capacity. An apprenticeship program was also created with Housing and TERO to build the capacity of the industry needed work force. More tribal members will have greater opportunities in the

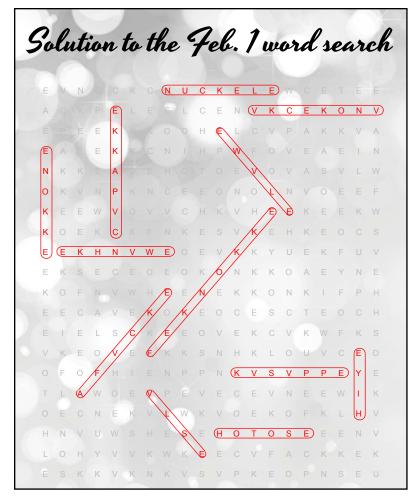
> construction field after completing the apprenticeship training.

Cultural Preservation employed its first ever tribal archaeologist, who is U.S. Department of Interior qualified and specializes in Southeast archeological studies and practices. The department also presented the second Mvskoke History Symposium with over 100 in attendance.

We're actively repatriating culturally-affiliated human remains and funerary objects extracted from Ocmulgee National Monument located at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and a National Park Service facility in Florida.

Office of Administration

Responsible for updating Strategic Plan by sponsoring sessions over a two month period with over 100 tribal stakeholders participating. In addition, the office has oversight



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF:

J.W.; DOB: 05/11/14

Alleged Deprived Children NOTICE OF HEARING TO:

Bobby Willhite, Sr., Father to A.W., DOB: 11/06/11; B.W., Jr., DOB: 05/20/13 and J.W., DOB: 05/11/14

Case No. JV-2014-07

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed against you in the above-styled and numbered cause and will be heard in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 6th day of March, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the children remain wards of the Court and custody be continued in the Children and Family Services Administration for continued foster placement of possible pre-adoptive placement. YOU ARE FUTHER INFORMED that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

FURTHERMORE, failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute a denial of interest in the children which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any





The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a quarterly session Jan. 31 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which passed 15-0.

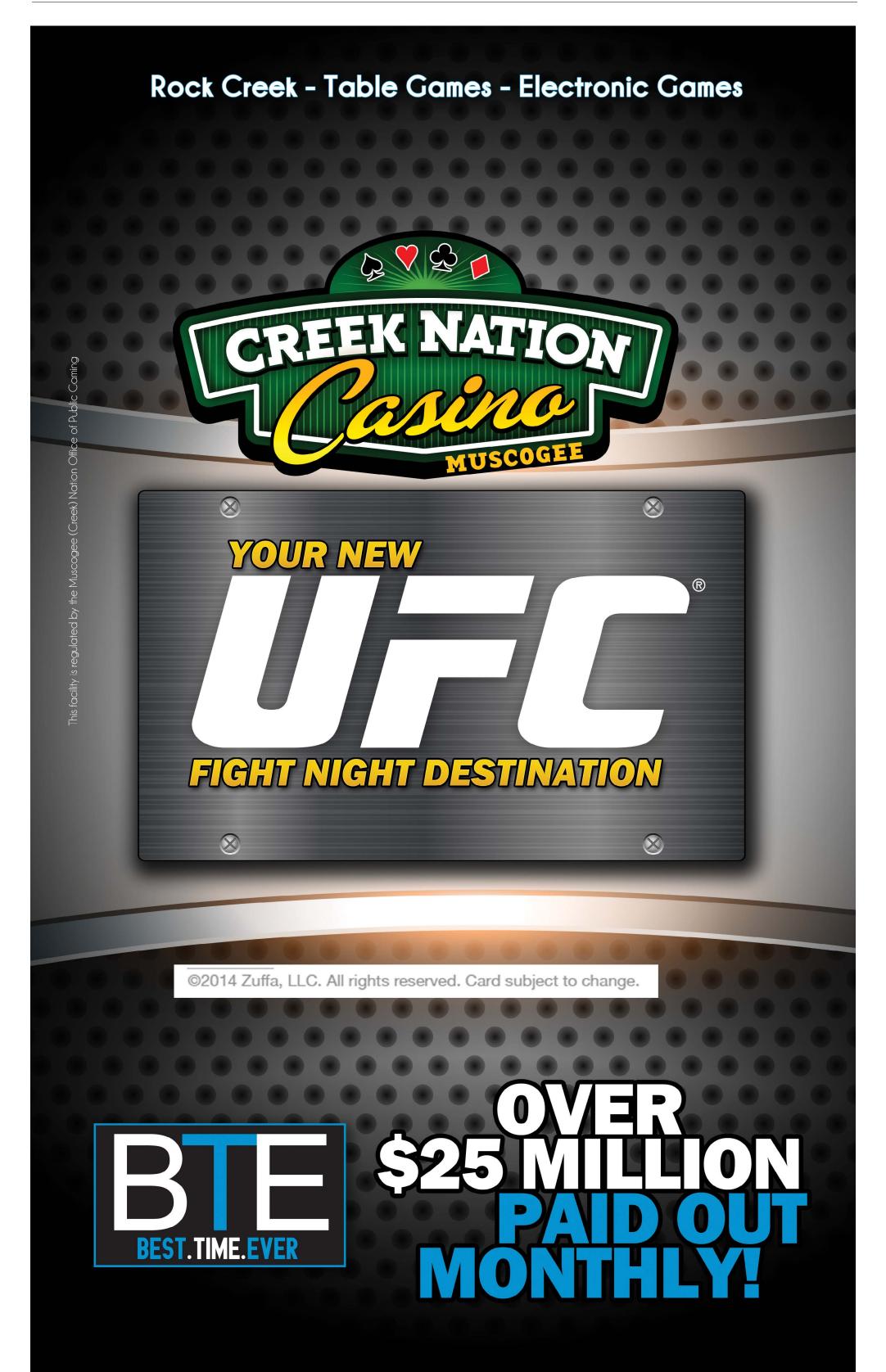
- TR 15-006 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a participating provider agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Dentegra Insurance Company. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-007 Authorizing the principal chief to execute network participation agreements with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma on behalf of MCNDH. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-008 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a group practitioner agreement with Triwest Healthcare Alliance on behalf of MCNDH. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-009 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an application for reimbursement with the Oklahoma State Department of Health Trauma Care Assistance revolving fund. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-010 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Okfuskee County for improvements to Route EW 1030. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-011 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN, the Indian Health Service and the Weleetka Public Works Authority for satisfactory domestic water supply for Indian homes within Okfuskee County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-012 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Muskogee County for improvements to Butler Creek Church Road. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-013 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an express membership agreement for Equifax verification services between MCN and Talx Corporation. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-016 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a letter of indemnity related to the construction of phase two of the River Spirit Casino

Resort Expansion/Renovation Project. Reps. Robert Hufft and David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 15-017 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a loan agreement with BOKF, NA dba Bank of Oklahoma, as administrative agent and lead arranger, and the other lenders party thereto, to finance the construction of an entertainment facility at River-Walk Crossing. Reps. Johnnie Greene and Pete Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 11-4 with Reps. David Nichols, Hill, Jack and Tiger voting against it.
- TR 15-018 Approving the memorandum of agreement for Indian Health Service Project OK 10-S04 and authorizing the principal chief to execute an exchange letter amendment for Indian Health Service Project OK 10-S04. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-001 Authorizing a special \$113,000 appropriation to the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Reps. James Jennings and Barnett voting against it.
- NCA 15-002 Authorizing a special \$208.16 appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-003 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 35 Section 3-102 (E) in order to delete income guidelines. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-
- NCA 15-004 Authorizing the expenditure of \$736,000 in grant funds awarded to MCN by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Program. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-005 Authorizing the expenditure of \$200,000 in grant funds awarded to MCN by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Native Connections Program. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-008 Repealing Title 11, Chapter 4, entitled 'Chartered Community Use of Tribal Lands and Buildings,' and replacing it with a new Title 11, Chapter 4, entitled 'Chartered Community Cooperative Use of Tribal Lands and Buildings.' Tiger sponsored the amendment, which

passed 15-0.

- NCA 15-009 Authorizing a \$312,500 appropriation to purchase a 214 MCI J4500 Chartered Coach Bus for the MCN Transit Program. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-010 Creating a Fleet Management revolving fund account for the expenditure of all departmental income. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-012 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the 2015 Greater Tulsa Indian Art Festival. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-
- NCA 15-013 Authorizing a \$4,000 donation to the non-district livestock show. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Hufft and Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 15-014 Authorizing a \$373,477 appropriation to fund two satellite offices to be located in the Eufaula and Checotah Indian Communities to provide citizens and community members greater accessibility to MCN services and programs. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 9-6 with Rep. Mark Randolph, Nichols, Barnett, Beaver, Deere and Jennings voting against it.
- NCA 15-015 Approving and authorizing the principal chief to execute and file the articles of organization with the Office of the Secretary of the Nation to form Muscogee Nation Businesses LLC, under the MCN Limited Liability Company Act and approving the operating agreement for Muscogee Nation Businesses LLC. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-016 Authorizing a supplemental \$52,913.25 appropriation for the MCN Headstart Program fiscal year 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-017 Authorizing an \$875 appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Hill and Jennings voting against it.
- NCA 15-019 Authorizing a special \$170,000 appropriation of funds for MCN to enter into a partnership with new tech academy at Alice Robertson Junior High School in Muskogee, Okla. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Jennings voting against it.



3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net



ADDRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of all programs, monitors and updates policies to reflect the growth of the last three years. Expanding the use of IT tools such as Laserfiche Software Application and Paperless Management System. Two weeks ago, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation was awarded the Run Smarter Award for exceptional use of Laserfiche to reach new heights of efficiency and productivity by implementing the new paperless

This is the first time the award has been presented to a tribal government. Historically, it's been exclusively awarded to Fortune 500/1000 companies. Another first for Muscogee (Creek) Nation! A Mvskoke History Course was taught for all MCN employees to elevate knowledge and awareness of the MCN history. I'm pleased to report that over 1,000 employees have completed the course.

Department of Commerce

Fosters, promotes and develops commerce in and outside of the Nation to strengthen the regional economy. Secretary of the Nation filed Articles of Organization for sixteen (16) Limited Liability Companies pursuant to the provisions of the MCN Limited Liability Company Act, one non-profit files articles of organization. Two Uniform Commercial Code transactions were filed under the Title 33 Code.

The Compressed Natural Gas program fostered an agreement with a third party company with the intent to utilize the Oklahoma State Tax Credits to help finance the infrastructure for Compressed Natural Gas at the Okmulgee Travel Plaza. The plan is to utilize the third party company to construct the CNG station infrastructure, including the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company pipeline extension. We will incorporate CNG into the Travel Plaza operations under Travel Plaza management. The Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) has total dollars loaned by the Mvskoke Loan Fund in the amount of \$363,145 that created 58 jobs, which average one job per \$6200 loaned. A disabled veteran came to Commerce to build his credit and to get a loan for his business. He was awarded a loan and now has a successful business due this wonderful resource. Grants totaling over \$1.2 million have been procured and the program was awarded CDFI certification from the U.S. Department of Treasury this past fall and has seen 186 online and classroom participants for the CDFI program.

The Muscogee Nation Small Business Center since its inception has counseled more than 150 Creek citizens in the past year with 20 starting their own businesses. There were 85 jobs created and retained by these business startups. The Center continues to provide technical assistance and presentation on behalf of the Nation.

Department of Housing

Continue to provide decent, safe housing while building stronger and healthier communities for low income participants in the tribal jurisdiction. There were approximately 85 families that were provided housing in the last year. Programs include Development or new construction, Mortgage Assistance, Acquisition, and Alternative Housing. The department operates and manages six rental apartment complexes with a total of 368 units with an overall average of 88 percent occupancy. There are currently 1050 homebuyers in the department's inventory. Due to legislation passed recently, the department is aggressively pursuing 184 financing to address the waiting list. Housing took on the role of general contractor for new construction homes, subcontracting as needed and buying the materials with a savings of 7-10 percent in costs of building a home. Today's Housing department reflects an increase in productivity by implementing new initiatives.

An apprentice program in collaboration with Tribal Construction, Employment Training, and TERO is proving to be successful in providing training for the industry. A Elderly Rental Subsidy Program is a new initiative being planned in the 2015 Indian Housing Plan to address the needs of citizens on a fixed income.

MNBE

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise currently employees 43 Myskoke citizens. Muscogee International, LLC (MI) was planned financed and implemented with the assistance of MNBE. MI is an SBA 8 (a) certified company. MNBE just completed five years of work in Afghanistan and developed a Nation to Nation relationship with Miami Nation of Oklahoma through Miami Business Services to pursue contract opportunities.

Department of Education and **Training**

A number of initiatives were started in 2014 such as: the Botball Program, Literacy, Acellus Learning system, a tutorial program for our students at Eufaula Dorm, Mvskoke language apps for iPhone and Android devices, audio books for Literacy program, Head Start, daycare and adult language classes and state teacher certifications for language teachers to be certified to teach in public schools. Higher Education is providing student debit cards and a Emergency Scholarship funding grant. JOM continues the very popular Challenge Bowl using tablets now and also Advance Placement Incentives. Employment and Training collaborating in the apprentice program with Housing, TERO and Housing. GED classes are still being offered, Career Assessment Center and monthly workshops are also being offered.

The Higher Education Scholarship Foundation held a golf tournament for the purpose of raising funds. We initiated a work place giving program and a direct mailing campaign. The Foundation has raised over \$400,000 and presented

numerous scholarships. The Head Start Program collaborated with Stidham, Henryetta, and Dewar schools and introduced MyOn to Head Start centers.

The Reintegration Program received a national award for Outstanding Criminal Justice Tribal Program by the National Criminal Justice Association. Received CTAS Purpose Area 3 grant. We are in process of finalizing plans for New Transitional Living facility. We opened a store where donated clothing, furniture, living and household items can be repurposed for those in need. We assisted 125 children with toys and supplies from the annual toy drive and chili cook-off and served 113 clients in areas of housing groceries, clothing drug and alcohol assessment/treatment, driver's license reinstatement. household items, utilities, transportation, court advocacy, and job placement. TERO has been involved with construction projects by providing jobs. In the short time of the program, it has certified 144 Native-owned businesses with 44 being Creek owned, a new program that has

Gaming

a bright future.

Gaming continues to be the financial strength through distributions to the Nation and allows for many of service activities of the Nation to exist. Gaming had an increase of \$7 million or 2.3 percent over fiscal year 2013. Operating expenses saw a decrease of \$3 million over the previous year and increased labor efficiency and food cost margins. Distribution increased by \$5.1 million over the previous year. There were a number of remodels at River Spirit and the addition of Johnny Rockets, a private gaming venue for our best customers, which is the only one of its kind in Tulsa Muskogee Casino had a grand opening for their remodel land expansion in April. One Fire Casino in Okmulgee got approval for a sports bar construction and gaming expansion.

Bristow, Checotah, Eufaula and Okemah are currently being considered for expansion or remodel. Tribal employment is a priority at the Casinos with emphasis on our citizens. Citizen employment increased from the previous year. Majority of the General Managers at the casinos are citizens of MCN.

OneFire Holding Company

In the last year, a change in leadership occurred, with OneFire building a leadership team and developing guiding policies and procedures. We developed a thorough investment evaluation process, reviewing over 50 plus investment opportunities. We established a transparent financial reporting and communications with stakeholders. It has closed and invested over \$7 million in impactful projects that are performing as expected and beginning to employ citizens. The major accomplishment was securing an anchor tenant for RiverWalk that in turn, is attracting interest from dozens of potential tenants. We began the transfer of the SIPS plant to a for profit business entity and the

transition is going well.

Department of Community and **Human Services**

WIC officially opened their new building in August of 2014. Since its opening, participation has increased by 4 percent. TANF has been approved for an additional three years issued by the Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Children and Family Services. TANF opened a satellite office in Jenks as a central location for citizens living in the northern region of the jurisdiction. Family Violence Program's Victim Advocates Mitzi Pope and Tina Qualls became the first tribal program advocates to be awarded the Oklahoma Victim Advocate of the year. The Family Violence Prevention Program was awarded three grants totaling more than \$1.2 million.

Child Care hosted Cultural Day and had over 1,000 guests attend from 29 schools, the largest ever. The director of Child Care serves on the board of National Indian Child Care Association. Community Research and Development produced the first edition of the National Resource Directory for the Nation, a publication that is very popular. It also launched text message and mobile alert service to communities and citizens. A groundbreaking was held for the new Food Distribution center in Coweta and anticipation is growing for participants in that area for its opening. The Social Security Assistance Program is busy as it's increased participation and allowed staff to increase from one to four. The Youth Services Program (Investing in Mvskoke Youth) started in November. It's currently working with citizens of the Nation to determine needs of youth ages 12-24, the at-risk age, to create new programs and services. Foster care and Adoption has seen response to its applications and increased its numbers by 50 percent since January of last year.

The Department of Community and Human Services initiated the first Listening Meetings though out Creek Nation. Sessions were a success as citizens were able to express their concerns with my office and cabinet.

Citizenship Office

Bureau of Narcotics approved Narcotics added our Citizenship ID to the list of only seven tribal a secondary type of identification when obtaining services. In June, a secondary barcode was added to ID cards so pharmacies could scan cards when filling prescriptions. In November, a new Veterans ID card was introduced. Veterans from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy may get ID's denoting 'veteran' and their respective branch of service. In December, Children ages 12 and over can now receive photos on their citizenship ID.

Mvto!!!

May God bless America, may God bless the State of Oklahoma and may a Sovereign God continue to bless the sovereign Muscogee (Creek) Nation!!

We pay homage to them by

continuing their vision with our

display of unity in setting the

foundation for future generations.

In February, the Oklahoma new Citizenship ID for use at pharmacies. In May, the Oklahoma Department of identification cards approved as

Since its inception in 2004 with two courses and 27 students,

College of the Muscogee Nation

it now offers 52 classes with 189 students. The campus now includes a location for students and faculty/staff to support cocurricular activities, learning and services in the new Student Center. The Center features the Mvskoke language, and inspiring cultural graphics that depict the removal from the homelands, location of Creek tribal towns, and the Treaty of 1832. 77 percent of surveyed CMN graduates reported working for tribal governments or enterprises. Of the 189 students 87 percent are citizens and among the 159 graduates, many have expressed an appreciation for receiving a culturally focused education.

Much of the success has been in context such as transparency, going paperless, tremendous savings in all facets of our operation.

There have been a lot of firsts and recognition given to MCN on its accomplishments on the local, state and national levels.

The Nation will continue to seek economic development and improve services and programs.

These accomplishments came to fruition because of the ability to work hand in hand together! Traditionally, culturally, it's the Mvskoke Way!!

The future of our Nation is bright. Progress should not be delayed. When progress is delayed, history is delayed.

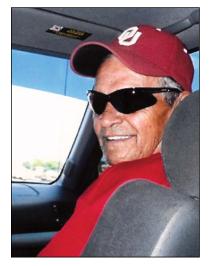
In closing, the Mvskoke Way has never failed us. We gain strength from those before us who set a foundation for future generations. Now, those of us who lead this Nation must continue the journey for our following generations. The oath we took as elected officials to uphold our Constitution remains as solid as ever.

It directs our journey and continues to serve as the pillar for our government.

While 2014 was a great progressive year, there were challenges as well and other challenges lie before us. With each new challenge, this Nation has a proven record that we overcome them by working in a unified manner. In 2014, many of us returned to the homelands of our ancestors to pay homage to those who fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice for our rights as Mvskokvlke. Our language, tradition and culture no longer exist there. Our traditional church hymns and ceremonial songs echoed off the tall long leaf pine trees at Horseshoe Bend and it was described by a tribal member how the trees seemed to sway to the beautiful rhythms and songs. Just as it did for our forefathers, adversity strengthens us, but more importantly unity solidifies us. Their spirits and the spirits of those who served in the House of Kings and House of Warriors still stand with us today.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

LEON CROSLIN



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Leon Harry Croslin, a resident Okmulgee, passed away Jan. 17, 2015 at the age of 74. He was born May 30, 1940 to Jim and Mildred Lucas-Croslin in Snyder, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, Jim and Mildred Croslin; brothers, Richard Lucas, Benny Lucas, Jr. and Homer Eugene Lucas and one daughter, Regina Beth Croslin.

Survivors include his: son, Michael Leon Croslin and wife, Diana of Caddo; sisters, Della Gordon, Janet Lucas, Joyce Henderson and husband, Fred; brothers, Jim Story and David Lucas; grandchildren, Mikayla Croslin and Alexus Phillips Croslin and numerous other relatives and friends.

Services were scheduled Jan. 22 at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Okmulgee. Mr. Croslin was buried at the Liberty Morris Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee. Visitation was held at the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhand-crematory.com.

KYLE HALLFORD



FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Kyle Brandon Hallford, age 27, of Fayetteville died Jan. 22, 2015, at his residence.

Kyle was born Dec. 15, 1987, in Escondido, Calif. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army having served in Afghanistan with the 21st Signal.

He is survived by: a son, Kade Nathaniel Hallford; daughter, Shaelee Hallford; and a step-son, Kaleb Groesbeck all of Highlandville, Mo.; his parents Joe and Adra Hallford of Texarkana, Ark.; brother, Nate Hallford of Fayetteville; grandparents, Doris and Burt Wayne Mattson of Fouke, Ark.; Virginia Brown of Arizona and Buck and Martha Hallford of California and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were at Texarkana Funeral Home in Arkansas with Jared Gibson officiating. Burial with military honors followed at Independence Cemetery in Fouke, Ark.

Directions to Independence Cemetery: Take HWY 71 South about two miles past Fouke. Take a left on County Road 8, then take a left on County Road 9: drive about two miles and the cemetery will be on the right

FREEMAN LOWE



MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Freeman 'Bunky' Lowe was born July 11, 1945 to Andrew Lowe, Sr. and Nora Roberts in Okmulgee, Okla.

He entered into eternal rest Jan. 31, 2015 at the VA Hospital in Muskogee at the age of 69 years, 6 months and 20 days.

Bunky attended Nuyaka High School. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965, serving two tours in Vietnam as a corporal. Bunky was a combat veteran and a member of the Muscogee Nation Red Stick Society. As a civilian, he was a welder by trade.

Preceding him in death are his: grandfather, Chick Roberts; grandmother, Nancy Roberts; mother, Nora Roberts; father, Andrew Lowe, Sr.; brothers, William and Alexander Lowe; son, Christopher Lowe and longtime companion, Marlene Whiston.

Survivors are his: daughter, Diana Lowe of Okmulgee; brothers, Andrew Lowe, Jr. of Tahlequah, Okla., Rusty Lowe of Catoosa, Okla., Kenneth Lowe, David 'Hutke' Lowe both of Broken Arrow, Okla., Kuna-gi Lowe, Nacoma Lowe both of Tulsa, Okla.; sisters, Joanna Lowe of Glenpool, Okla., Christina Vargas Arriega of Brockport, N.Y. and Andra Samuels of Bixby, Okla.; granddaughters, Christyn Barnett and Carmen Burgess; grandsons, Chance Beasley, Hunter and Thunder Washington and Tyson Baker; great-grandchildren, Kolby, Keegan and Koen Burgess, Kye Wilson and host of nieces, nephews, friends and relatives.

Wake services were held Feb. 3 and officiated by Rev. Norman Daniels at the Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4 and officiated by Rev. Marvin Lowe at the Nuyaka Baptist Church in Okmulgee and Freeman was laid to rest at the Nuyaka Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers are: Scott Lowe, Buster Lowe, Bubba 'Alfred' Lowe, Vincent Lowe, Billy Lowe, Barry Lowe, William Lowe and Chance Beasley.

Military Honors were conducted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhand-crematory.com.

MCN SRO schedule

Media Release

Feb. 17, 24

Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact the MCN SRO at: 405-452-1100.

MVTO

Mvto! To all the Seminole/ Muscogee (Creek) citizens that turned out for the Food Sale and Benefit Bingo for Anna and Robert Cully at the Holdenville Indian Community Center Jan. 17. Anna and Robert were at Greenleaf Baptist Church at a wake service.

The news advisory for that evening was for people to stay as warm as possible for the night because the artic cold front was coming in.

Her son, Robert, received word that their house in Oklahoma City was on fire and Anna called me as they left the church and told me her house was on fire and she was so worried about her cat.

She called back later and stated that, "everything was lost" and had lost the cat named 'Bella'

Robert's friend, Vanessa offered her place for refuge. Thank you, Vanessa for taking care of my sis and her son. Thank you everyone for being at the fundraiser, especially newly elected Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Mr. Louis Hicks.

A special thank you to Patsy Powell and Peggy Factor for jumping in the kitchen and flipping hamburgers to get the food sale going.

And another big thank you to the young ladies: Martha Yahola, Candice Tainpeah, Michelle Meely, Andie and Tobie Meely, Meske Wind, Molly Franks and Veronica Givens and Lucinda Meyers for their help in the kitchen.

The Benefit Sale was kind of off the cuff by Wallace Cully (Robert's dad) and LaQuita; and with help of Jeanette and a huge help from the Holdenville Indian Community Center and also, the ladies that work in the ENP center, Nancy, Pam and Penny. A special thank you! It could not have been a success without everyone there that contributed! May the good Lord bless you all!

"We now that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" Rom. 8:28. If we define the good as only what we can see in this life, then we miss the whole point of the text.

TCIC ELECTION SET FOR FEB. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an election Feb. 17 from 6-8 p.m. for the treasurer position.

The deadline for letters of intent and the \$20 payment for background checks is Feb. 6 by 5 p.m.

For more information contact Roman Powell at: 918-695-2781.

WATSON FAMILY RE-UNION SET FOR FEB. 21

DEWAR, Okla. — A Watson family reunion is set for Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Dewar Indian Community Center. Please bring a covered dish.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 21

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel, 8815 E 101 St., Tulsa OK, has set a wild onion dinner for March 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners, which include: wild onions, brown beans, salt meat or ham, frybread and a vegetable, desert and drink are \$4 for children and \$8 for adults.

For more information call Sandra Bible at: 918-815-7973.

Fire danger is increasing in Oklahoma

BIAIMedia Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After months of little rain, fire danger is on the rise again across the State of Oklahoma.

Dry weather, unusually hot temperatures, and strong north winds have combined to make Oklahoma's forests and grasslands easily flammable. In addition, large fuels such as big branches, logs and downed trees from previous tornadoes and ice storms are very dry inside.

These will burn with great intensity. Keep in mind that dry vegetation, both living and dead, will burn readily under these conditions. Think before you act! Consider that the following objects and activities can start a wildfire, destroy homes, threaten lives and damage our natural resources:

- Cutting hay
- Hay Bailers
- Pump Jacks
- Welding, Cutting, or Grinding
- Unattended Debris Burns
- Unattended Campfires and Charcoal Grills
- Sparks from Chainsaws
- Hot Vehicle Exhaust Systems
- Tossed Cigarettes
- Hot Coals from Wood Burning Stoves

If you see a wildfire on or near Indian lands please contact a number below for immediate assistance Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Management: 918-680-0383, 918-752-7340

Effective immediately: the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has implemented a Burn Permit System in effect for all of Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction.

A BIA burn permit is needed on lands held in trust or restricted status by the United States of America and under the jurisdiction of Okmulgee Agency.

The burn permit application can be picked up at all MCN Indian community centers, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Tribal Complex, Kialegee Tribal Town Tribal Complex, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Tribal Complex and the Okmulgee Agency Fire Building located at 1006 Eufaula Street in OKMULGEE,

Minors eligible for photos on new IDs

MCN Citizenship/Media Release

Effective immediately, children ages 12 and older are able to have their photo placed on their Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship ID. A parent or legal guardian must be present and must present the proper identification and/or documentation.

If you have any questions please contact the Citizenship Office at 918-732-7941. Also, if you know anyone who has not updated to the new Citizenship ID card please send them our way!

MCN Social Security Q&A

MCN Social Security/Media Release

QUESTION:

What is the difference between Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

ANSWER:

SSDI pays benefits to disabled individuals who unable to work, regardless of their income and resources.

SSI pays disabled individuals who are unable to work and have limited income and resources.

QUESTION:

How much is the cost of living adjustment and when will I receive it?

ANSWER:

In 2015, there will be a 1.7 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income recipients.

The COLA will begin with Social Security benefits paid to beneficiaries in January 2015 and SSI payments made on Dec. 31, 2014.

QUESTION:

Why does my neighbor pay a smaller premium for Medicare Part B than I do?

ANSWER:

Since 2007, higher-income beneficiaries have paid a larger percentage of their Medicare Part B premium than most. Depending on their income, these higher-income beneficiaries will pay premiums that amount to 35, 50, 65 or 80 percent of the total cost of coverage. You can get details at www.medicare.gov.

QUESTION:

What is Medicare Part D?

ANSWER:

Medicare Part D helps pay for prescription medication.

QUESTION:

Can I get help paying the Part D premium?

ANSWER:

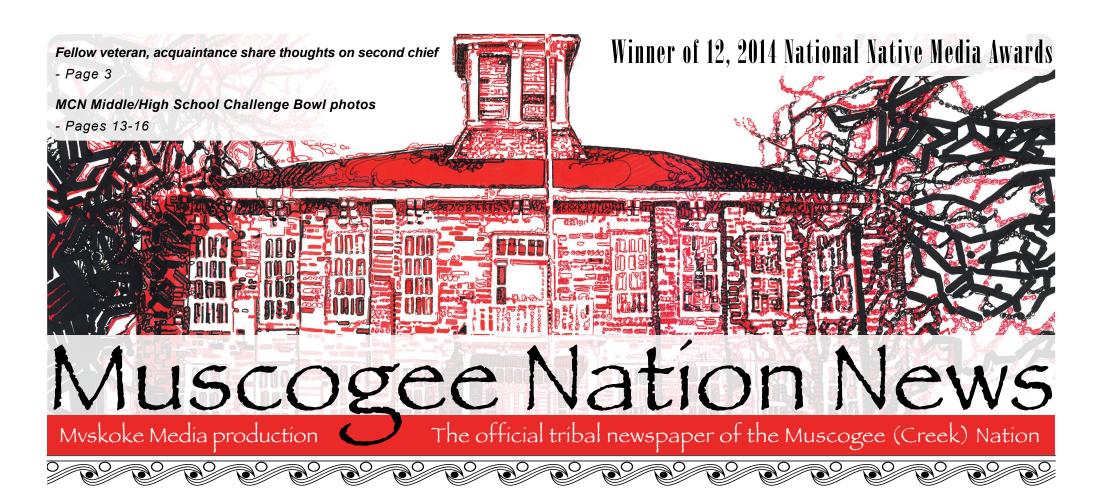
Yes, to qualify for extra help: you must reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia; your resources must be limited to \$13,440 for an individual or \$26,860 for a married couple living together.

Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds.

We do not count your home, car or any life insurance policy as resources. Your annual income must be limited to \$17,505 for an individual or \$23,595 for a married couple living together.

The staff at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program looks forward to assisting you with any social security issue.

You may contact our office by coming into the office in the Solomon McCombs building on the MCN tribal complex or by phone at: 918-549-2479 or by mail at: MCN SSAP, PO BOX 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447.



FlyingTee entertainment venue unveiled at RiverWalk

Facility estimated to open early 2016

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

JENKS, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and RW Restaurant Development revealed FlyingTee as the name of the new entertainment and golf complex addition to the RiverWalk development in Jenks, during a press conference Feb. 17 at the facility.

The venue will be built on the west bank of the Arkansas River in the vacant lot between the RiverWalk shopping center and the OneFire Holding Company office buildings.

FlyingTee will act as an anchor tenant to attract other businesses to RiverWalk.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger stated that he has always seen the purchase of RiverWalk as a "diamond in the rough" and is pleased to see the complex grow.

announcing, allows for that diamond to be a little more shiny," Tiger said.

Tiger said that FlyingTee pairs nicely with the construction MCN is doing across the river



MNN/Sterling Cosper

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger speaks at a press conference Feb. 17 about the FlyingTee entertainment venue to be built at the RiverWalk development in Jenks, Okla

for the Margaritaville expansion project at River Spirit Casino.

Construction is slated to start Feb. 17 beginning with the demolition of the former RiverWalk Movies building.

FlyingTee is estimated to open "I think today, with what we're in early 2016. The 53,000 square foot facility was announced Jan. 14 and will include a multi-level sports bar and restaurant that serves specialty drinks, craft beers with a classic sports bar and upscale casual menus.

family friendly entertainment destination, hosting events such as birthday parties and corporate gatherings.

FlyingTee Managing Partner John Vollbrecht said that the golf and dining options. component will draw people of all ages and backgrounds.

"Just in terms of the entertainment and what you're going to be doing, the name really sticks to what the facility is," Vollbrecht said. "It appeals

FlyingTee will offer a to everyone and is fun for everybody."

Vollbrecht said that the facility is similar to the Top Golf concept, but differs in the golf activities offered, entertainment structure

This is the first entertainment center RWRD will construct and operate. The organization was created specifically for this project.

Entertainment - 3

March 1, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 5 "Tasahcuce" Little Spring



Council releases statement on forensic audit

Inquiry remains ongoing

National Council/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — We the National Council in majority make this statement. We have taken an oath to protect the assets of the Nation.

Also, this Nation has opted tor a policy of accountability and transparency.

Throughout this Nation, citizens have questioned the expenditure of tribal funds in addition to a situation involving the previous second chief. We are all aware of the penalty of unauthorized expendi-

To determine if any tribal funds have been misappropriated or misused, it is necessary to perform a forensic audit and the National Council authorized the audit in July of 2014 and such review continues until the present date.

The purpose of the forensic audit is to gather evidence to ascertain the true facts concerning an issue and thoroughly review the records of the Nation as opposed to an annual audit for compliance of required procedures and lawful expenditures, at random selection of files.

The auditors have faced obstacles to prevent collecting pertinent documentation.

But, there is an avenue to complete this task and we will utilize those means.

In closing, we the National Council are allowing our legislative body to be audited as part of the forensic audit, as we have nothing to hide.

This Nation, up to this time has not conducted a forensic audit on the expenditure of tribal funds and all documents relating to expenditures.

It's time.

16th annual MCN Challenge Bowl kicks off

New location, technology highlighted

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. The 16th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl Competition launched Feb. 6 with the High School Division at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

The purpose of Challenge Bowl is to foster childhood about Muscogee learning (Creek) culture, history, government and language using traditional values of brotherhood as the foundation.

This year, the Challenge Bowl incorporated a few new changes.

"It's our first year to have it here at the College of the Muscogee Nation... this was our first year with the tablets," said Johnson O'Malley Program Manager Regina Keith.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger spoke Feb. 6 during the MCN High School Challenge Bowl Competition hosted by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla.

Keith has been involved in the tournament for many years, from taking a team to participate in the first competition to now overseeing all of the Challenge Bowl operations.

Keith has watched the competition grow over the years and spoke about how the tablets have made a difference.

"We had binders of paper... It took a lot of manpower to get those things organized and put together and even brought to the facility," Keith said. "Now all we have are the tablets and it's made it more convenient for our staff and our volunteers."

Twenty teams showed up to compete for this year's title of champion.

Preston and Glenpool Blue battled in the semi-final round with one loss each to move on to the finals.

Glenpool Blue placed third, moving Preston to the final

However, Glenpool White came prepared, ready to compete and defeated Preston in the final round.

Preston received second place and Glenpool White went undefeated the entire competition to claim the title of Muscogee (Creek) Nation 16th Annual Challenge Bowl High School Division Champion.

Wilbur Gouge Sportsmanship Award presented to the Glenpool Black

Each year, JOM awards one male and one female high

Challenge - 2



MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

INTERIM DIRECTOR
CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE
cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTERDARREN DELAUNE

<u>ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

RADIO SPECIALIST
GARY FIFE
qfife@mcn-nsn.qov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MCN partnership to benefit Muskogee school

Nation sponsors first New Tech Academy in Oklahoma

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and MCN National Council Rep. Joyce Deere met with officials from Alice Roberts Junior High School located Muskogee, Okla., Feb. 10, to sign NCA 15-019 at the MCN Executive Building in Okmulgee.

Deere sponsored the amendment, which authorized a \$170,000 appropriation for MCN to partner with New Tech Academy at the AR-JHS to make it the first New Tech school in Oklahoma.

Since the New Tech Network launched the first school in California in 1996, it has expanded to over 150 schools nationwide and two schools internationally. NTN brings project-based learning to students with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math.

"What it does is brings kids more hands-on learning; learning in groups," AR-JHS Eighth Grade Assistant Principal Brian Doerner said.

The New Tech Academy at ARJHS will service 200 students, with Native Ameri-



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and MCN National Council Rep. Joyce Deere met with officials from Alice Roberts Junior High School Feb. 10 at the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., to sign a \$170,00 appropriation to help ARJHS become a New Tech school.

can students making up 30 the whole Nation," Deere said. percent of the population. According to Doerner, the

A \$3.8 million bond was passed by the citizens of Muskogee to fund the construction of a new facility to house the New Tech Academy, complete with solar panels and wind turbines to power different parts of the building.

Native American art will be displayed inside the building and rooms will be named after various Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Students will be educated in topics such as tribal government, Indian health and the Mvskoke language.

"They won't just be learning from books that aren't written by us. We will be able to teach them who we are as Muscogee people, share that with them and in the long run it will benefit According to Doerner, the classrooms are separated by partitions and can be combined for math and science classes as well as language and his-

tory classes to learn together.

ARJHS Principal Peggy Jones said the school is anxious to get input from the partners within MCN and share the knowledge that they have learned in the process of acquiring New Tech Academy as well as share projects with schools within the Nation's jurisdiction.

"As a Nation, we have always had education as a priority and whenever we can partner with other entities to improve our level of education; that's something I think that reflects the direction that we take with this administration," Tiger said.

CHALLENGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school senior Challenge Bowl participant the \$500 Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship.

This year, the recipients are Lindsey Dennison and Dayton Ellen.

Dennison is a 17-yearold senior at Sapulpa High School and has been involved in Challenge Bowl for eight years.

"It helps me realize that our culture isn't being preserved as it should; so in order to do this, it helps me remember what our people went through," Dennison said.

Dennison plans to attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., and major in business administration.

Ellen is an 18-year-old senior at Checotah High School and has been involved in Challenge Bowl for ten years.

"It just important to me because this is my culture," Ellen said. "My grandma has been helping me with it for awhile and she's the one that taught me and got me interested in it."

Ellen plans to attend Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., and major in business.

The elementary division is scheduled for Feb. 20.

"The Challenge Bowl is offered to anybody, not just our JOM schools," Keith said. "It's offered to schools outside our boundaries, churches, community centers."

For more information about the Challenge Bowl contact the MCN JOM Program at: 918-732-7843.

Native youth exhibit market animals at livestock show



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The second annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation All-Indian Livestock Show was held Jan. 30-31 at the Okfuskee County Fairgrounds in Okemah, Okla. The doe goats and market steer shows were new additions to this year's event.

Wahnee learns leadership qualities through program

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKEMAH, Okla. — The second annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation All-Indian Livestock Show was held Jan. 30-31 at the Okfuskee County Fairgrounds in Okemah.

Participants exhibited lambs, wether and doe goats, market hogs, heifers and market steers. The event included a showmanship competition for each species

Showmanship winners and breed champions received a belt

The livestock show featured a large number of exhibitors and animals amounting to 50 lambs, 50 goats, 154 hogs and 44 in the beef category.

MCN 4-H Program Project Manager Billy Haltom was pleased with the turnout.

"A lot of parents told me that, 'you know; this was our first time here but it won't be our last,' " Haltom said.

Jessica Wahnee, 18, has participated in 4-H for the past five years. She has traveled to Washington, D.C., with the 4-H Club and showed two pigs in the MCN All-Indian Livestock Show.

She enjoys exhibiting in the swine category.

"I like them especially when

I give them baths because they like to play," Wahnee said.

Wahnee said that 4-H has taught her leadership and social skills that she will take with her throughout her life.

"People should consider joining 4-H and FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America)," Wahnee said. "That way they can meet new people and learn to become a great leader."

If she had not joined the 4-H club, Wahnee said she probably would not have met one of her best friends. After high school, Wahnee plans to study graphic design at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Okla.

A common misconception of the 4-H program and FFA is that exhibitors come from farming and ranching families. Haltom said this is not the case.

"Seventy-five percent of the kids that are in 4-H and FFA do not live on a farm," Haltom said.

Haltom said that facilities are available for interested participants who do not have a place to keep their livestock projects.

The first annual MCN All-Indian Livestock was hosted in Okmulgee. The program is looking at the possibility of hosting the event in Creek County next

The winners are as follows:

Lambs

Grand Champion- Paike McNeil Reserve Grand ChampionBronze Medal- Hailey Varnell Sr. Showmanship-Hailey Varnell

Jr. Showmanship- Paike McNeil

Wether Goats

Jamison McNeil

Grand Champion- Julie Isbell Reserve Grand Champion-Chelsea Crawford

Bronze Medal- Beka Bunch Sr. Showmanship- Megan

Greathouse
Jr. Showmanship-

Alex Anderson Doe Goats

Grand Champion- Ceejay Robison

Reserve Grand Champion-Megan Greathouse

Bronze Medal- Macy Willis

Market Hogs

Grand Champion- Sophie

Reserve Grand Champion-Cade Nean

Bronze Medal- Karson Osborn Sr. Showmanship- Brianna Hill Jr. Showmanship-Karson Osborn

Heifers

Grand Champion- Isaiah Sallee Reserve Grand Champion-Wyatt O'Neal

Bronze Medal- Sara Grammer Sr. Showmanship- Kaley Van Meter

Jr. Showmanship-Emma Holland

Market Steers

Grand Champion- Wyatt O'Neal

Reserve Grand Champion-Brant Weir

Bronze Medal- Sara Grammer

To learn more about participating in the MCN 4-H Program, contact Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628.

Middle School Challenge Bowl held at CMN

JOM program discusses competition updates

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Middle School Challenge Bowl Competition was hosted by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program Feb. 13 at the College of the Muscogee

Nation in Okmulgee.

According to www.musco-geenation-nsn.gov, JOM sets a standard of excellence for Challenge Bowl unlike any other type of competition.

JOM strives to keep the standard of information at the highest level using the Mvskoke culture, language and government as the guidepost to teach children.

"We have updated our study guides within the last two years as well as our questions," said Johnson O'Malley Program Manager Regina Keith.

The Challenge Bowl is open to any student that has an interest in learning the Mvskoke culture.

"It creates a good avenue for the kids to develop relationships with other students," Keith said.

Forty-two middle school teams showed up to compete.

After a long day of competing, Glenpool Blue,
Beggs Red Boys and Beggs

Bowl - 5

Fellow veteran, acquaintance share thoughts on second chief



MNN/Amanda Rutland Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Louis Hicks was sworn in Jan.

Hicks gives insight into time in office, personal goals

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "Thomas Jefferson once said, 'A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman thinks of the next generation.' We have a statesman as a second chief."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office Director and fellow Myskoke veteran Ken Davis shared his thoughts on newly elected MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks.

"He's brought a lot of honor, dignity, trust back to the office,"

Davis said. Hicks was sworn in Jan. 17.

"The phone calls started the first day he was in office," Davis said. "People with situations that need to be addressed, resolutions that needed to be forwarded; he's been right on that."

Hicks has established a support-based working relationship with MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

"I'd just like to take a few things off of his plate," Hicks said. "I know he's a busy man."

Davis elaborated on this relationship.

"Second Chief is brand new and can't get in there and do everything right off the bat; so it's interesting to observe Chief Tiger and Hicks because he keeps stepping him up as he's seen the progress," Davis said.

Davis has also teamed up with Hicks.

"He's only been here three weeks now and he's gone a lot of places," Davis said. "In fact, we've made two visits to veterans' homes already."

Seminole Nation citizen and former MCN employee Susie Wind helped coordinate a fundraiser for Anna and Robert Culley who lost their home in a fire. She personally thanked Hicks for attending the event in a letter submitted to the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

"He is a quiet man and takes really good care of his family and his dad," Wind said. "I believe he has an interest in our schools that Native children attend and he and his wife both worked in the school systems."

Davis has known Hicks for eight years and confirmed this silent nature.

"If I had to sum up Second Chief Hicks, I'd do it like this; matters are best accomplished quietly," Davis said. "Don't worry about getting your picture taken; don't worry about getting your name out there while you're doing something."

In his professional life, Hicks has a master's degree in school administration from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. He held several supervisory positions at MCN and was MCN Human Development Department director.

"This guy doesn't stop," Davis said. "He's a pretty tireless worker."

In his personal life, Hicks has been married to Gloria Hicks for 40 years, has seven children and 16 grandchildren. He is a member of Silver Springs Indian Baptist Church, the Fuswvlke (Bird Clan) and the Atvse (inactive) and Arbeka (active) Tribal Towns.

"I've got to thank all the citizens that voted for me," Hicks said. "But I'd really like to thank my family for supporting me financially, physically and mentally."

Hicks wants the citizens to know he is there for them.

"The door's always open and anyone who wants to come in, if I don't have an appointment or something, I will sit down and visit with them," Hicks said.

Hicks was in the U.S. Army from 1969-1972, having served in peace and wartime. In Vietnam, he was the crew chief on a Huey Gunship helicopter, where he was a door gunner and performed maintenance and upkeep as well.

While in this position, he was awarded the Air Medal 14 times for achievement and he also earned the Air Crewman's Wing for combatants on an attack helicopter and the Army Commendation Medal.

"I would absolutely trust him with my life," Davis said.

Hicks confirmed that he will run again for second chief in the general election this year.

"Yes, I'm looking to run for second chief again and hopefully, I've made just a little impact with the little time I'll be here until next election," Hicks said.

ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FlyingTee expects to employ 110-150 people after the construction phase is complete.

Tiger said the venue is a winwin venture with economic development for the tribe and employment for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"Just like anyone that we do business with, we encourage them to make sure that the Creek preference is always given the strongest consideration," Tiger said.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 14-213 on Dec. 20, 2014, appropriating \$11,661,800 to OneFire Holding Company for the purpose of constructing

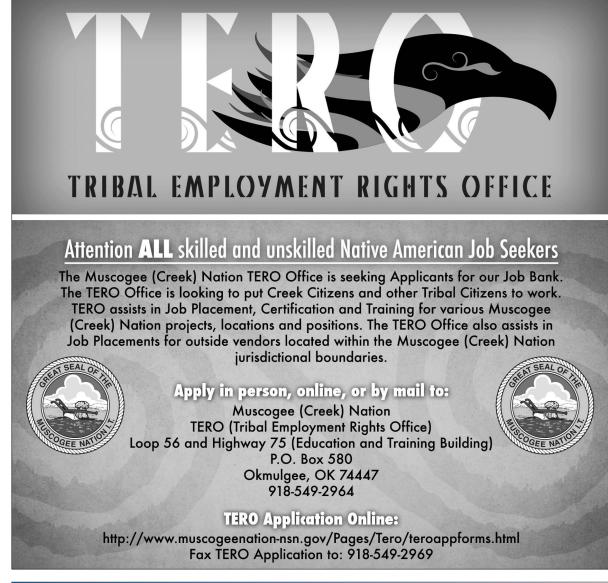
FlyingTee. RWRD will provide the remaining funds for the \$22 million project.

Timberlake Construction has been contracted to construct the venue.

"Timberlake is a 39-year-old construction company. We're based here in Oklahoma," TC President Bryan Timberlake said.

TC has constructed venues including Bass Pro Shops and the Main Event entertainment facility that will open in Tulsa, Okla., in March 2015.

For more information about the FlyingTee entertainment venue at RiverWalk, visit: www.flyingteegolf.com.







\$312,500 approved to purchase new chartered coach bus



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approved \$312,500 during the Jan. 30 quarterly session for the MCN Transit Program to purchase a new chartered coach bus.

Vehicle to offer reliability, handicap accessibility

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council approved \$312,500 through NCA 15-009 during the Jan. 30 quarterly session for the MCN Transit Pro-

gram to purchase a new chartered coach bus.

Transportation Department Manager Charley LaSarge, the oldest bus in the current fleet has accumulated close to 500,000 miles.

"I told the Council that if they're wanting to keep all of this scheduling going on for that chartered service, which we do a lot of traveling now on those buses with different schools and tribal programs; that we're kind of scared to drive that older bus

out," LaSarge said.

He referenced an increase in demand against the current number of vehicles as well.

"A lot of schools are now using two buses when they go on a trip," LaSarge said. "We just took Morris High School band over to San Antonio for three days and they chartered both buses."

LaSarge plans to repurpose the older bus.

"So now we'll have a third bus

"I THINK IT IS GOING TO BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE FLEET AND I THINK According to MCN THE ELDERS WHO NEED THAT HANDICAP **ACCESSIBILITY SHOULD TAKE FULL** ADVANTAGE OF IT."

> - MCN SENIOR SERVICES INTERIM MANAGER STEVE WAHNEE

> > and just use the older bus to fulfill what's scheduled in Oklahoma or close by and then we'll have the new one to make the long trips that we've been making," LaSarge said.

The older bus has caused complications in the past.

"A couple of times, that bus

broke down and we had some elderly on it and we don't like that," LaSarge said. "We put them up and take care of them and everything when that happens but we're hoping this gets us out of that problem area."

The new bus will feature handicap accessibility. This generated a need for multiple vehicles during the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend trip.

> "We had to send one of our Transit vans down with the bus because they are handicap accessible but our bus wasn't," LaSarge said.

MCN Senior Services Department Interim Manager Steven Wahnee is excited about the accommoda-

tions the new bus will make for Mvskoke elders. "I think it is going to be a great addition to the fleet and I think the elders who need that handi-

cap accessibility should take full

CMN hosts first student talent show

Event aims to encourage students

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — College students filled Earl's Back Alley Coney's, an eatery located in downtown Okmulgee Jan. 28 for the College of the Muscogee Nation's first talent show.

The talent show was a collaboration between CMN and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services and was aimed at promoting individuality and acceptance more than competition.

Judges Nancy Mason, Julian B. Watson and Dawn Thompson opened the event with encouraging words and a short performance to highlight their talents. Mason sang, Watson presented spoken word and Thompson sang a Myskoke hymn.

Mason told the crowd about her shy childhood and choice to showcase her talent in spite of that.

"God had given me a talent and he says, 'If you don't use it you loose it.' So, you have to use those talents. Every single person in here has a talent," Mason said. "If you step out and decide to share your talent, just know your [CMN] family is going to support you."

Only three students had registered before the event, but more joined in during it.

Student talent presentations ranged from magic tricks to instrumental music performances and singing. Every participant

ceived a small prize, but



MNN/Amanda Rutland The College of the Muscogee Nation hosted the first student talent show Jan. 28, at Earl's Back Alley Coneys in Downtown Okmulgee, Okla.

top three winners were awarded gift cards.

First place winner Dace Tiger said he did not enter the contest for the money. Tiger performed 'Southern Man' by Native American musicians Alex E. Smith, Cheevers Toppah and Kit Landry.

"Something told me to just sing something Native. That's something I have always liked to do... I just kind of wanted to show the people it's OK to know your language; it's OK to be Native American," Tiger said.

Tiger is studying gaming at CMN, but said his goal is to become a lawyer in Native American law like his mother, Cynthia Tiger.

"Anybody can improve our Nation, from the smallest to the oldest to the biggest," Tiger said. "My mom was an Indian lawyer, herself, and I realized from watching her and all the work she had to do, that there's not enough Indian lawyers out there to help represent our people."



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Update given on Margaritaville expansion project

Electric line to be moved, soil work almost complete

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla. — A power line and tower located between the River Spirit Casino parking garage and the main facility will be moved south of the parking lot by Public Service Company of Oklahoma as part of the Margaritaville expansion project.

"The lines would be directly over our facility and the tower would be in the way of the parking structure and the hotel tower; so from day one that was part of the plan of we need to relocate these PSO power lines to the south end of our property," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos CEO Pat Crofts said.

The costs associated with moving the electric line that comes from the west side of the Arkansas River are included in the \$329 million Margaritaville expansion of the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa.

"Had we not been able to move the power lines and the towers, we would've had to build to the south of the existing casino and that's where all of our parking is and that literally would have cost us multiple millions of dollars in revenue over a two year period during construction," Crofts said.

With the current plan, guests are able to visit the casino during the two-year construction period without issue.

PSO Communications Manager Stan Whiteford explained the process of moving the electric line.

New towers measuring 154 feet above ground level were built south of the casino park-



Public Service Company of Oklahoma will be transferring the power line from the tower located in between the River Spirit Casino parking garage and the existing RSC facility to a new structure located south of the casino located in Tulsa, Okla.

ing lot and the electric line will tie into the current structures on the east side of Riverside Drive.

Ropes have been strung across the Arkansas River connecting towers on each side.

"Those ropes will be used to pull the new cable across overhead," Whiteford said.

The electric cable will be pulled across the rope, and then connected as necessary. Approximately 1,880 feet of electric line will span the river. Whiteford said that mak-

ing the switch is fairly simple. "It's a line relocation. It's

not a new line and it doesn't change anything about servicing the casino," Whiteford said. PSO has already taken into

consideration the increase in electric load once the Margaritaville expansion project is complete and the current system will be able to handle the demand. Whiteford stated that PSO

does not receive requests to move towers often because most construction plans accommodate existing structures.

Crofts explained that the project has encompassed cooperation from multiple entities from working with the City of Tulsa for water and sewer, fire protection services and roadwork on Riverside Parkway to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The project has almost completed redistributing 400,000 cubic yards of sand and shale out of the Arkansas River to the river bank to the west of the casino.

"We have created 13 and a half acres of new buildable land to the west of the existing property... and that's what we're building the project on," Crofts said. "So that's a major portion of it and we're about 80 percent done with the dirt work."

RedStone Construction has started drilling for the foundation piers for the hotel tower. In two or three weeks, they will begin on the piers for the low-rise casino.

"The progress is going smoothly. We're having a mild winter and things are going along on time and on budget for the projected opening date," Crofts said.

The low-rise casino is scheduled to open in late fall of 2016, and the hotel tower and theater showroom are scheduled to open December 2016.



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Middle School Challenge Bowl Competition was hosted by the MCN Johnson O'Malley Program Feb. 13 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla.

BOWL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

No Names were the top three

The two Beggs teams met in the semi-final round with one loss each.

Beggs Red Boys defeated Beggs No Names and moved onto the final round.

Glenpool Blue came into the final round undefeated, how-

Beggs "IT CREATES A GOOD AVENUE FOR THE KIDS TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS Red WITH OTHER STUDENTS." Boys won - MCN JOM PROGRAM MANAGER

REGINA KEITH

an if-necessary game. Beggs Red Boys made a

caused

comeback and won again, taking the title of Muscogee (Creek) Nation 16th Annual Challenge Bowl Middle School Division Champion.

Glenpool Blue placed second and Beggs No Names placed

The Beggs No Names also received the Wilbur Gouge Honors Team Award for their sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Each year, MCN employees and community members prepare for the competition by having core group meetings, weekly lunch hour work sessions to prepare study guides, develop the language listings, questions and conduct training sessions for the volunteers.

"For this being my first year to volunteer for Challenge Bowl, it was a great experience," said MCN Department of Employment and Training

Youth Career Specialist Samantha Coon.

Coon shared about her

experience.

"I got to be on the other side of Challenge Bowl and it was great to see so many young people learning and retaining so much of our Mvskoke history and language," Coon said.

The elementary school division is scheduled for Feb. 20.

For more information about competing in the Challenge Bowl or becoming a volunteer contact the JOM Program at: 918-732-7843.





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Muscogee (Creek) citizen named MVP



title for the Lady Cardinals.

tournaments.

lington.

The Tournament of Champi-

ons is one of Oklahoma's pre-

mier high school basketball

the most points in the event.

to college," Billie said.

Billie's 71 points tied her for

"If I didn't have basketball, I

wouldn't have the opportunities

that I have right now, like to go

In November, Billie signed an

"It's going to be hard but I feel

like I can do it because I'm going

to have a new basketball team

and they're going to help me

NCAA letter of intent to play for

the University of Texas at Ar-

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lauren Billie was named the 2014 Tournament of Champions most valuable player.

Billie inspired by the game of basketball

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lauren Billie was named the 2014 most valuable player of the 50th Annual Tournament of Champions Dec. 31, 2014 at the Mabee Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Billie is an 18-year-old senior at East Central High School in Tulsa, Okla.

Billie, a 5-foot-6-inch guard, scored 71 points in the three games to help bring home the Tournament of Champions through it," Billie said.

Billie plans to major in criminology.

Before Billie can start her college career, she must finish her high school career.

In the past three years, Billie's team has made it to the Class 5A state finals twice, the semi-finals once and looks to be back at the state playoffs again this year.

Billie spoke about her leadership as a senior.

"It's been tough but I lead by example," Billie said.

In her high school career, Billie has been named to the All Tournament Team for the Arkansas Tournament of Champions, VYPE Top 100 basketball players in Oklahoma, nominated for the Elite 8 Ford Award and she was also on the honor roll.

Besides playing basketball for her high school, Billie also plays for an Amateur Athletic Union team where her team won the Adidas Nationals in 2013.

Billie shared about how her mother has influenced her in basketball and in academics.

"She always tells me to never give up and that I can play basketball because I used to not think that I could play," Billie said. "She's always on my butt about school."

Billie is also of Seminole and Choctaw decent and is the daughter of Wynona Gipson of

Coon receives Native American Music Award



Musician promotes sophomore album

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Case Manager Carrie Wyatt remembers having talent shows with her sister Jamie Coon growing up in Okemah, Okla.

"We would have our talent shows and play 'Star Search' as children," Wyatt said. "She would always win."

Wyatt saw the determination that her sister had to become a great singer and she feels that it is paying off.

"I am very proud of her," Wyatt said. "She knew what she had to do and she put the time into doing it and now it is paying off."

The 2014 Native American Music Awards were held in Salamanca, N.Y., last November and one of the recipients happened to be Coon.

She won 'Best Pop Recording' at the awards ceremony for her sophomore album 'Day After Day' and was also nominated for 'Best Female Artist.'

Coon has been playing music and singing since she was a young child.

"I thought it was pretty cool," Coon said. "I was surprised."

Coon was able to attend the awards show where she performed the songs 'Falling Apart' and a single called 'Waiting' from her first album 'Day After

"It was exciting," Coon said. "You are overwhelmed and you have an adrenaline rush. At first I was a little scared but I just close my eyes and get into the music."

Coon is currently working on getting tour dates scheduled for 2015. She wants to travel more around the country to promote this album and wants to include a show in Oklahoma.

"This tour should begin this summer," Coon said. "Oklahoma will be one of the stops. I always love coming home and doing a show there and I get to see my family and friends."

She moved to California to attend Musicians Institute and after graduation, stayed out there to continue her music career.

"I think I am more of a pop/ soul type of singer," Coon said. "I have been singing since, I guess you could say forever. It has been for as long as I can remember."

For more information on Coon, visit her website at: www. jamiecoon.com or find her on Facebook at: www.facebook. com/jamiecoonmusic.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen retires from Army



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Maj. Darren Keahtigh retired from the U.S. Army Jan. 31 after 25 years of service.

Keahtigh aims to return to Oklahoma after service

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Maj. Darren Keahtigh retired from the U.S. Army Jan. 31 after 25 years of service.

Keahtigh grew up in Miami, Okla., where he graduated high school in 1990.

From a young age, Keahtigh always knew he wanted to go into the military and after graduating from high school; he and his brothers enlisted into the army.

"I was always that kid that played with army toys," Keahtigh said.

Just a month after Keatighs oldest brother left for basic training, Keahtigh and his other brother left Aug. 14, 1990 for basic training as infantrymen at Fort Benning, Ga.

"It was good to have your brother to go through basic training... to have your brother there made it a little bit nice," Keahtigh said.

After graduating from basic training, Keahtigh and his brothers were sent to Germany but were stationed at different

"For the next two years, we were stationed in Germany," Keahtigh said. "I did do a lot of traveling just to see things... we did enjoy some stuff."

When Keahtigh returned from Germany, he attended Northeastern A&M Junior College in Miami, Okla., where he graduated in 1995 with an associate degree in criminal

Keahtigh then went to the University of Central Oklahoma where he joined ROTC and graduated in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice as well as his regular army commission as an infantry officer.

From then on, Keahtigh has had many operational assignments, which include deployments and tours and has received many awards along the

"I've been blessed by God that I've never lost anybody, haven't lost one man or woman... 36 deployments, three tours; I never lost anybody," Keahtigh said.

Keatigh is currently stationed in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as an observer controller and operations officer to Operations Group Charlie, Mission Command Training Program.

Keahtigh also looks to graduate from Central Michigan University with a Master of Science in administration human resources in May 2015.

After Keahtigh retires, he would like to live in the Tulsa, Okmulgee or Henryetta, Okla., areas and work for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"My ultimate goal is I want to come home," Keahtigh said.

Keahtigh has three children, a son Kody and two daughters, Kaylynn and Kacie.

Keahtigh is also of Kiowa and Cheyenne-Arapaho decent and a member of the Bear Clan and Peach Ceremonial Ground.

Lighthorse Explorer of the Month: Garrett Marshall



Marshall shares experience, prepares for future

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Garrett Marshall as the February Explorer of the Month.

Marshall is a 16-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen who is originally from Omaha, Neb., and currently lives in Wetumka,

"I have an interest in the police field," Marshall said. "I'm leaning more towards the medical field or first responder but police force may be a possibility."

The Explorers Program is designed to give those that join a hands-on experience in law enforcement and is a way to get young people involved in their communities through the community service that the post takes part in.

"I have heard about it from one of my dad's cousins because he is an officer up here at Lighthorse." Marshall said. "I talked to him about it and it seemed really cool and thought I'd like to

Marshall has been active in

the Explorers Program for a year-and-a-half.

While in the program, Marshall has been named 2014 Explorer of the Year and was promoted to MCN Lighthorse Explorer sergeant.

Marshall has had new experiences but considers the trips he has been on the most memo-

"I really like the two trips I've been on since I've been involved," Marshall said.

Marshall traveled to Daviston, Ala., for the Bicentennial Commemoration for the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and Americus, Ga., for the Ride Home Memorial Ride Bike Rally, which honors veterans and their families.

"Both of them were really amazing. We met some really awesome people," Marshall said.

Marshal shared how the program has better prepared him for the future.

"Explorers itself has given me the experiences and just showed me that there is a whole lot more out there than what is originally shown to you," Marshall said.

Explorers in leadership positions within the post learn the realities of being responsible.

"It makes me more aware of certain stuff as well," Marshall said.

Marshall shared how the advisors of the program have helped

"They have given me a lot of advice what to do when it comes to college... they are really knowledgeable when it comes to it," Marshall said.

Marshall is homeschooled and outside of school and the Explorers, he takes private martial arts lessons, enjoys hiking and being outdoors.

Marshall is a member of the Tiger Clan.

How to: compose a better resume

MCN ET helps citizens stand in the job market

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Effective resumes can help an applicant stand out from the crowd. But how does one achieve that?

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Employment and Training Career Specialist Jessinna McBee outlined some ways to improve a resume.

Information to include

Although there are different types of resumes, they should at least include contact information, an objective as well as job and education history. ResumeGenius.com that an objective should be a

short sentence describing how a company would benefit from the applicant rather than focusing on what the applicant wants. "Sometimes, you are going

to have to cater the objective to that position," McBee said. McBee said Also, a personal instead of a work email address.

Make sure contact information is current.

Contact information should include name, address, phone number and an email address.

Resumes should one to two pages at the most.

According to the Purdue Online Writing Lab website, if the resume writer has less than 10 years of experience draw a line down the middle



Shutterstock

Proper resumes can set an applicant apart from others.

or is a recent college graduate, go with a one-page resume.

Size 12 font is too big.

Size 12 font is standard for most documents; however, font sizes for resumes need to be smaller. For example, a size 9-11 font is best. McBee said a size 12 font could be used for heading, but not for the body text.

Use active verbs.

Use active verbs to help your resume stand out such as administered, composed and guided.

Keep resume format consistent.

Keep fonts, font sizes and spacing between lines consistent throughout the entire resume. For example, if someone chooses to use a particular font for headings, use that font for all headings.

Use the quadrant test.

McBee said that while in college, she learned the quadrant test to check the effectiveness of a resume. Once the resume is written,

of the page vertically and a line in the middle horizontally. This makes up the quadrants that will help check the resume for balance between information and white space.

According to McBee, a reader will scan the page like a 'Z.' If the reader's eye picked up information in the first 20 seconds of looking at the resume, effectiveness has been achieved.

Seek a second opinion.

It is a good practice to have another person review the resume for spelling errors and typos that may have been overlooked.

"Have at least three resumes on hand. One for whatever job you are trying to apply for...and then you want to have a master one," McBee said. "One that, if you're doing mass email outs on your resumes, that one would be catered to all job positions."

For more resume tips, McBee recommended the following websites: OKJobMatch.com and Purdue Online Writing Lab at: www.owl.english.purdue.edu.

For individualized resume assistance, contact the MCN Employment and Training Department at: 918-732-7773.

Howto: apply for citizenship

Proof of Dawes Roll lineage mandatory

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. As of Jan. 7, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has 78,310 enrolled citizens and that number continues to increase.

The criteria for citizenship is that you must be Muscogee (Creek) by blood and trace back to a direct ancestor listed on the 1906 Dawes Roll by issuance of birth and/or death certificates.

There is no minimum blood quantum required when applying for citizenship. Applying for citizenship can be a confusing process.

However, here are some instructions that may make the application process easier.

Gather all the information and documents needed. This will save time later.

Required information:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Social Security number
- Physical and mailing address
- Phone number



(Creek) Principal Chief George Tiger gets a photo taken for his new MCN Citizenship ID.

up, mailed to you or are available online at: www. muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

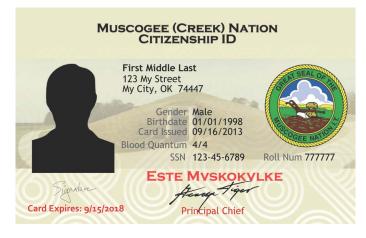
Follow the 'Citizenship' link under the 'Departments' tab. Select 'Citizenship Forms,' and from there you will be able to find the application and other citizenship forms if needed.

Step 3

Return application

Once the application completed, return it the required docuwith Citizenship. ments

Or send to:



- Email address
- Tribal background • Parents Information
- o Full Name
- o Social Security numbers
- o Date of birth
- o Tribe and Roll numbers Maternal grandparents and paternal grandparents'
 - information o Full Name
- o Social Security numbers
- o Date of birth
- o Tribe and Roll numbers

Note: If one or both biological Muscogee (Creek) parent(s) are enrolled, the grandparents' information is not required.

Required documents:

- Original or certified copy of State Certified Full Image Birth Certificate
- Copy of Social Security card

"We do have some states that do not issue a full image birth certificate. A lot of them issue a computer-generated birth certificate. In that case... we would ask for an affidavit," said MCN Citizenship Office Director Nathan Wilson.

Note: For those who are tracing back to the original enrollee, you must submit a State Certified Full Image of the original birth and/or death certificates of non-enrolled ancestry up to the person that is enrolled.

Example: If your mother is Muscogee (Creek) and is not enrolled, the Citizenship Office needs the birth certificate to connect the applicant to the first enrolled citizen.

Complete the application.

Applications may be picked

Muscogee (Creek) Nation ATTN: Citizenship Board P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74437

Note: When mailing in the application, for applicants 18 years and above, enclose a passport photo of yourself as well as a legible copy of your State Driver's License or State ID.

For applicants 12 to 17-years-old, enclose a passport photo of yourself as well as a legible copy of your State Driver's License or State ID of the parent or legal guardian that signed the application.

Veterans, submit your DD Form 214 for a specialized Citizenship card. Please allow two-four weeks

for the MCN Citizenship Board to review the application. Note: If other documents are required you will be contacted. All originals will be re-

turned after they are reviewed.

Tips:

Photocopies of birth or death certificates will not be accepted. If unsure about Passport photos visit: http://travel.state.gov/ content/passports/english/ passports/photos/photos.html.

Citizenship asks for help with updating deceased citizens' information. If your Muscogee (Creek)

parent(s) or Muscogee (Creek) grandparents are deceased, please submit the death certificate of the citizen or call the Citizenship Office with this information so a death notice may be completed. For

more information, contact the Citizenship Office at: 918-732-7941 or 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7941.

How to: apply for veteran's benefits



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office was established ten years ago.

VASO aids citizens seeking veteran's benefits

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Services Office was established 10 years ago to help veterans pursue benefits. Offi-

VASO Operations cer Chelsie Dickerson summarized the claims process. Step 1

Make an appointment. Although Dickerson said it is not necessary to have an appointment, it is highly recommended because VASO employees spend 30 percent of their time in the field. Step 2

The applicant should bring service discharge paperwork also known as a DD214 and Muscogee (Creek) citizenship card. Step 3

The claims officer will review the discharge paperwork to determine when the veteran served, where they served, in which branch and what their military occupational specialty was.

"After we determine that, we

kind of know what to put them in for. [For example] hearing loss or tinnitus, which is ringing in the ears," Dickerson said.

The veteran will also be about any medical conditions or symptoms.

Step 4

Step 5

The claims officer will fill out the appropriate paperwork to open the claim. "We fill out every single form for the veteran. Basically all they have to do is sign and date," Dickerson said.

The claims paperwork is mailed by VASO to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to Dickerson, after the VA receives the paperwork, they will send a letter, generally a Veterans Claims Assistant Act letter, to the veteran informing them their claim has been received.

"Once they get paperwork form the VA, contact us immediately," Dickerson said. The VCAA signed is mailed back. Step 7

The next letter the veteran receives is about a medical examination with a questionnaire.

"We tell them, 'Do not fill it out, bring it here," Dickerson said. The claims officer will exthe process of the to the veteran, so exam they know what to expect. The veteran takes the questionnaire to the appointment.

Final Step

After that appointment, the veteran will wait to receive the results of the exam, along with a rating from the VA. The rating determines the amount of monetary and medical benefits. "Sometimes it takes quite a

while for ratings," Dickerson said. The veteran will receive back payment from the day the claim was opened. "Say we opened it in January but they didn't get their percent-

paycheck for what they are going to be receiving," Dickerson said. Dickerson said **VASO** likes to resubmit claims every two to three years in case

their condition has worsened.

"They could have more

age until May; they get a back

than one at 100 percent [disability]," Dickerson said. For more information about starting a claim, contact Chelsie Dickerson at: 918-732-7617 or VASO Director

Ken Davis at: 918-732-7739.

MCN citizen, employee to hike Appalachian Trail



Photo Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kyle Settlemyer is planning to hike the Appalachian Trail beginning in April.

Settlemyer took a road trip with friends in October 2014 from Oklahoma to California, stopping in Albuquerque, N.M., the Grand Canyon in Arizona, Las Vegas, Nev., and returning by way of Sequoya, Calif., Yosemite National Park in Wyoming and down through Colorado.

'Why not?' mentality inspires journey

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kyle Settlemyer, 21, has always been into the outdoors but this summer, he will take on his biggest trip to date with a friend from middle school by hiking the Appalachian Trial.

"I'd heard the name 'Appalachian Trail' before but I didn't really know that much about it until I saw a video about a year ago and it just called to me," Kyle said.

The video: https://vimeo. com/83728717?from=facebook, covers the 2,180 mile trail from Springer Mountain, Ga., to Katahdin, Maine, in a documented endeavor from February-September.

"It's really one of those 'why not?' things. Like, I've always

been into adventurous stuff like 'Lord of the Rings,' " Kyle said.

Kyle is still preparing for his trip and ironing out the details.

"I like this page called Appalachian Trials on Facebook and they have this yearly contest where they give away a bunch of gear, like different sponsors help out," Kyle said.

Kyle entered the contest, which had participants submit a minute and a half video explaining why they wanted to make the journey.

He placed sixth with his entry, www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_ JaxNfBRts and received some beef jerky and Larabars.

"I'm still rounding up supplies," Kyle said. "I'm still trying to get a game plan too, like what towns I'll stop in."

He is also preparing for possible challenges.

"Everyone keeps asking me if I'm taking a gun," Kyle said. "From what I've read, it kind

of goes against the trail, like it kind of breaks the trust system. So I'm not going to take one but there's black bears, rattlesnakes and I guess ginseng hunters."

Kyle referred to the show 'Appalachian Outlaws' on the History Channel, where those who gather the supplement for a living fight to protect their foraging territory.

"I don't think that should be a problem," he laughed.

His mother, Stacey Settlemyer has had her own concerns.

"I've got to be honest, I've had some, as a mom, scary thoughts about what could happen to him along this trip and for awhile; I really didn't support it," Stacey said. "But he's really been faithful and continued to try and find out more information and do what he needs to, to do it."

Kyle's prudence and tenacity has swayed his family's opinion.

"It's finally hit me that he's going to do it regardless of what I think and so now both me and my husband are supporting him," Stacey said. "The worst part is that he has to quit his job to go but we're excited for him now; still scared but excited."

Kyle is an environmental tech I with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Services Department.

"They said I could probably come back if there was a spot but I knew the cost it was going to take," he said.

Kyle is originally from Coalton, Okla., and graduated with an associate degree from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Okla.

For more information about the Appalachian Trail visit: www.appalachiantrail.org.

MCN citizen, employee is Mr. Oklahoma



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joe McIntosh and his girlfriend Hannah Henry exercise at his gym in Dewar, Okla.

McIntosh 'hooked' on bodybuilding

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social McIntosh was intrigued by weightlifting and bodybuilding natural; they were monsters." at a young age.

bodybuilding," McIntosh said. "When I was a kid, I idolized Jersey. pro wrestlers and superheroes."

McIntosh was involved in athletics while in high school but felt he needed something said. to do when those seasons were over with. He thought that weightlifting would help him get bigger for the two sports that he played.

"I played football and population. basketball and I weightlifted in the off-season," McIntosh and what you eat and drink can said. "I did not play baseball so start towards a new way of life

the Mr. Universe competition at a show that I was tested in, so I believed that I was going to be tested there also."

McIntosh could tell that some of them were not on a level playing field with the others.

"It was obvious," McIntosh Services Social Worker Joe said. "Most of the guys that competed that day were not

Even with that, McIntosh "I always idolized felt that it was an overall great experience competing in New

> "I made some good connections and I had a great experience there," McIntosh

> McIntosh spoke about the importance of maintaining healthy goals for a healthier life. He sees how a lot of diseases do affect the Native American

"To change the way you eat I worked out at that time and for everyone," McIntosh said.

Citizen signs to run for Southwestern Christian University



L to r: Southwestern Christian University Track and Field Coach Ron Mitchell, Miner and Midway High School Track and Field Coach Amy Duvall.

Senior hopes to medal during high school final season

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

COUNCIL HILL, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Alexa Miner has been running as long as she can remember and always thought that running could take her wherever she wanted to go.

"I have always loved running," Miner said.

Why stop now?

On Feb. 4, Miner found out she was right as she signed a letter of intent to Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Okla., for track and field.

A senior at Midway High School, Miner feels that she has unfinished business for this track and field season and hopes to achieve a goal she's had since her freshman year.

"I want to medal this year," Miner said. "I medaled last year

and it was for fifth place. This year, I want state; I want first place."

Miner runs in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and 4x100 and 4x200 relays for her track and field team.

Miner plays other sports such as basketball, softball and crosscountry but there is something about track that she has always

"The running and competing against other people from other schools, I love it," Miner said. "You compete in other sports but the competitiveness in track is great. I push myself to be the

Miner was courted by schools that wanted her to enroll and compete on their track teams.

"A lot of the schools sent letters telling me about their school," Miner said. "The other schools were not as friendly."

She explained how SCU drew her attention.

"Coach (Ron) Mitchell came

and watched me at state," Miner said. "He didn't find me on a website like the other schools did. He made the effort."

"He set up the tour to check out the university," Miner said. "He did everything and that is what helped me choose Southwestern Christian."

Being a small school helped too. Miner said it feels like a home away from home.

Miner's high school track and field coach Amy Duvall knows first hand what a hard worker Southwestern Christian is getting with Miner.

"She is a real coachable kid," Duvall said. "Which means if there is something that I want to try to help her improve, she does it no questions asked. She works hard at improving everyday."

She knows that Miner will not disappoint the coaches.

"Southwestern Christian is getting an athlete that will be a great fit for their team," Duvall

Miner has a 3.8 GPA and plans on pursuing a degree in psychol-

"Academic wise, this school is a great fit for me also," Miner said. "If I need to stay late and need help with my classes, the teachers will do that. They will go that extra mile to make sure that I succeed."

Miner has some advice for anyone who wants to pursue success in sports.

"Know that you can do what you want to do," Miner said. "If there is something that you like, go for it. You have to push yourself and practice to get better. Do not listen to anyone who says you cannot do it."

Miner's parents are Sammi Koss and Emerson Davis and she is of the Sweet Potato Clan.

"FROM THAT POINT, I WAS HOOKED."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) BODYBUILDER JOE MCINTOSH

that is where I got hooked onto weightlifting."

detail how he started.

first bodybuilding competition and he kept nagging me to give it a try," McIntosh said.

McIntosh participated in his in 2012, in Austin, Texas, heavyweight division.

"From that point, I was a long ways healthwise." hooked," McIntosh said.

To date, McIntosh has once. completed in a total of six bodybuilding competitions. and then fall off the wagon," During his fourth competition last June, he took home a prestigious award.

June 2014," McIntosh said. "I think that was my all-time best break and it rewards them." condition. It is a big honor. was great too."

McIntosh used that win as Mr. Universe in New Jersey the following month. He placed 10th in the heavyweight division and have stayed with me." for that competition."

He also felt that the the year. competition was marked by a lack of drug testing, which is card in natural bodybuilding," common at the bodybuilding

"There was no testing," McIntosh said. "In the shows bodybuilding." that I have done in the past,

"Then the younger generation is watching and they will see McIntosh explained in further that you are eating right and exercising to better yourself will "I had a friend who did his help them to start with good habits too."

> McIntosh offered some tips for healthy goals.

"You do not have to be strict as first bodybuilding competition a bodybuilder," McIntosh said. "Start on baby steps. Cut back where he won in the novice on sugar and fried foods, and get active. Those three things can go

He also said not to quit all at

"I see people who will diet McIntosh said. "I'd rather see someone who does great for a few days and have a cheat meal. "I won Mr. Oklahoma in After that meal, then start back to eating healthy. It is a mental

McIntosh has begun personal Having a lot of support there training at his home in Dewar,

"I have my gym and I hope momentum to go compete for to get that going pretty soon," McIntosh said. "I have some people who are very consistent

McIntosh has some goals for

"I definitely want to get my pro McIntosh said. "That would shows that he has competed in.. be my biggest goal. I would also like to get sponsors for my

McIntosh said that he will there have been testing for all the compete this year but has not competitors. I had qualified for decided when.

DeLaune's corner: Quitter! Cannot handle it!



Make me eat my words

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hello everyone! How are you? How is the New Year going for you? I cannot believe it is already the third month of 2015. Before we know it, it will be August.

I think my last column was in November, so I figured I am due for another one.

What is my new subject? Well, let's play off of the New Year. With the New Year come resolutions.

We have a lot of people that want to get better or improve at something. Maybe they want to eat healthy and start working out but what usually happens after a week, two weeks or a month?

They start to get discouraged. They do not see the results right away and then, they quit.

Well here is my answer to that. Great! I am happy! Clears up space in the weight room. I can finally get on the treadmill or I can finally use the weights that I need to use.

It seems for that little bit amount of time, you are in my way. I want you to move. Leave! It makes my life much easier when I can do my workouts and go home.

And I am pretty sure that a lot of other people who workout regularly in the weight room will agree with me.

Then you will hear the words after you quit. 'Quitter, cannot handle it' or my favorite, 'resolutioner' (I made it up).

Before you go thinking that this is a column tearing everyone down on their resolutions, stop there. Trust me, it isn't.

This is a column to build you up. I will put it to you this way. I want you to read those words and I want you to absorb them.

I want you to use the words and here is the kicker, motivate yourself to get better and to prove me wrong.

Use the words that I put in this column to make that change, to eat healthy, exercise more and live a long healthy life.

when you feel that you quit and then you wait until next year to start all over only to quit again after a few weeks. Change that way of thinking.

There are times we may slip but it does not take anything to get back going the right way again. There is always tomorrow. Tomorrow is a brand new day.

We live in a society where quitting is the normal thing. We quit and we start something new.

This column is mainly about exercising and not quitting because you did not see results right away.

I get told that when I workout and do my exercises, that I motivate others to do the same thing. That is not the case. I tell them they motivate me.

Here is my reason why. I see everyone coming in, that may not be in the best shape but they made that push. They told themselves they want to get a better life.

They want to be more healthy and they challenged themselves to do that and that is what motivates me to continue working, exercising and eating healthy.

It is the other way around. Everyone else motivates me.

Yes, I slip too but I tell myself there is tomorrow. Tomorrow I will improve and become better.

Here it is, quote time. There are a lot of quotes pertaining to perseverance but I narrowed it down to two.

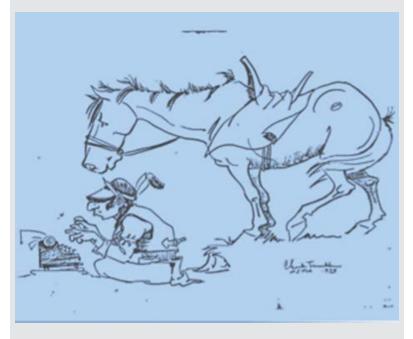
'Pain is nothing compared I know it is a slap in the face to what it feels like to quit.' -Unknown

> 'Daddy don't give up, don't ever give up. Be like me. I will never give up.' - Syeann DeLaune

> So here are the words again. 'Quitter, cannot handle it, resolutioner.

Now, prove me wrong. Make me eat my words. That will bring a smile to my face. It lets me know you are staying with it and wanting to make yourself healthy and get a better lifestyle.

Emvpanyv: 'One who tells a story'



Block of cheese, new OK Indian Liaison, losing a treasure

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. -'Emvpanyv,' so let's catch up on the job? a few things, eh?

At the beginning of the of Cheese Day.'

White House, we're dedicated suspicious circumstances. to making President Obama's and accessible in history. And tradition that dates back to Guild ceremony. the days of President Andrew of cheese.

"In 'fromage' (or, homage) to President Jackson's open house, you can bet there will be County' and 'Jimmy P.' a few cheese jokes. But we'll be questions, too," unquote.

OK, let's start here: Andrew Jackson was responsible for in Washington State. some of the worst and most

Tears comes to mind along with legacy.

House saying just that, but and Repatriation Act case. I never got a response. Big surprise, huh?

us have some fond memories of attraction. 'Big Blocks of Cheese.'

Hey, Oklahoma Gov. Mary in 1953. Fallin has replaced Jacque Native affairs. She named a spell hit the country? Cherokee, Chris Benge, as the of state and Native American from fellow Natives: affairs.

sources that Hensley was not getting much done as the replacement for the statewide my toes." Indian Affairs Council. Her already done by tribes themselves and a recommendation that her job be elevated to the cabinet hands in their own pockets."

The only thing that actually tribe, the Kaws, get some land and handy.

wish, but not the job.

Hensley's recent presentation to the state Inter-Tribal Council consisted of stories of her sons come eat.

and a toaster, and assurances that a lot got done 'behind closed doors' that were too numerous to mention.

Question: Can even a cabinet level employee earn the trust of all these Oklahoma tribes, while It's been a bit since the last being beholdin' to the Gov. for

Now for a change of subject. For those who remember year, the White House had a the performances of the late promotion called, 'The Big Block Blackfeet actress Misty Upham, we were saddened to learn They said, quote: "Here at the that she passed on under some

But, her work and presence administration the most open was noted by one of the big movie picture industry awards today, we're opening the doors ceremonies. Upham was of the White House (at least, included in the 'In Memoriam' digitally), bringing back a tribute at the 2015 Screen Actors

Upham's face appeared with Jackson and an open house Shirley Temple, James Garner, involving a 1,400-pound block and Robin Williams among others. She was known for her work in the critically acclaimed 'Frozen River,' 'August: Osage

Upham's promising career answering some serious policy ended last fall when she was found at the bottom of a ravine on the Muckleshoot Reservation

A federal appeals court denied heinous U.S. policies toward a request to reconsider the return Native Americans, IN HISTORY. the of remains of legendary He wasn't called the 'Indian athlete and Olympian Jim Killer' for nuthin'. The Trail of Thorpe to his sons in Oklahoma.

Now, Thorpe's sons may go a few other decisions. I don't to the U.S. Supreme Court for think President Obama really review. The justices only take a wants to be connected to that small number of cases and they have never ruled in a Native I sent a message to the White American Graves Protection

A lower court said the law does not apply to the community To be fair, though, on the other in Pennsylvania that bought hand, I'm sure that a whole lot of Thorpe's remains for a tourist

Thorpe, a Sac and Fox, died

Remember earlier this year, Hensley as state liaison for when a backside-kicking cold

Indian Country Today ran new cabinet level secretary a comic section of comments

Suzy Ross of the St. Regis Word has it from various Mohawk Tribe came up with some good ones.

"It's so cold, the hair froze off

"It's so cold, when I turn on 2013 annual report listed things the shower, it snows for 20 minutes."

"It's so cold, we saw chiefs with

Goot one. Ready for some tafvmpuce—

got done was to have her own wild onions? The first dinner we've seen advertised is at placed into trust, when the Haikey Chapel on March 21 honchos from Disneyland-On- from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., at 8815 The-Potomac were around here E. 101, Tulsa, OK. Bet there's a long line for that one? To Doesn't inspire a lot of the organizers, please be sure confidence. I guess she got her you have enough to meet the demand.

Hompvks ce-Everybody

Mvskoke traditions: wild onions



MNN File Photo

Sharing traditional foods

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "A Creek Indian has not fully prepared for the advent of summer until he has eaten his fill of wild onions in the spring, and it is even better if the meal has been shared with good friends," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Beulah Simms wrote in her book, 'Hokti's Recipe Book of Creek Indian Foods.'

In the early spring, wild onion dinners begin to sprout in areas throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction. These are widely attended and picking tafvmpuce, or wild onions, is a tradition that has been passed on from earlier generations.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Norman McNac has been picking wild onions with his mother since he was 11-years-old. He said that picking wild onions was something Mvskokvlke did pre-Removal.

"My grandmother and her grandmother said they have passed it down for a long period

of time," McNac said. "[My grandmother] said when she was a young girl, they went out and picked them... [It was] like an extra food for them."

According to McNac, wild onions are in season from February to March, but can grow as early as the middle of January.

"[It] depends on how the season goes; how warm it is and everything," McNac said. "We start checking in mid-January like when the pecans start dying

Simms and McNac agree that wild onions grow in sandy areas, along creeks and in shady wooded areas.

"If you get a lot rain, you get a lot of them coming up in different places you don't ever really see them," McNac said.

McNac said wild onions can be picked only before they bloom because they become poisonous and can cause sickness. Also, beware of a plant that is similar in appearance known as crow's foot. It is also poisonous.

"The difference is, where some of the onion is kind of flat and the other ones are kind of round looking. If you pick them quite a bit, you can tell the difference. Once you pick [the wild onions] out, you can smell the onion smell on them," McNac said.

In her book, Simms stated that crow's foot has flat leaves, but wild onions have long slender, round leaves.

The following wild onion recipe comes from Simm's book:

Wild Onions

4 bunches of wild onions

½ cup water 6 eggs, beaten

2 tablespoons bacon grease

1 teaspoon salt

Clean and wash onions thoroughly, making sure all the soil is washed out of the leaves. Cut into one-inch lengths. Place onions in a skillet with water and simmer until onions are tender. If the onions are old, simmer in salt water. Pour off the water and add bacon grease and cook until the onions are wilted. Add salt and eggs and stir until the eggs are completely cooked.

For more information about 'Hokti's Recipe Book of Creek Foods,' visit: www. mvskokecountry.wordpress. com/hokti's-recipe-book-ofcreek-indian-foods.

How to: tell if you are being stalked



Shutterstock image

MCN FVVP describes stalking behaviors

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Most people have known someone who has experienced a bad breakup and the ex may have called or texted multiple times a day or driven by their house occasionally.

This behavior is not only bothersome it is also illegal and is considered stalking.

"As far as stalking is concerned, people they think it is a joke quite a bit," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevent Program Victim Advocate Denise McCrary said. "It's time for people to stop thinking is so funny; it's a joke or whatever."

The Stalking Resource Center reported in January that 7.5 million people per year are victims of stalking per. According to McCrary, that number is only increasing.

"I have seen this go from 300,000 something, ... to 2012 we started using the 6.6 million up until last year," McCrary said.

Most stalking occurrences

EKISSE - Hair

are perpetrated by either current or former intimate partner relationships. Stalking victims are not exclusively one gender. Victims can be either male or

"Most men are stalked by their new girlfriend's ex," McCrary said.

The exact definition of stalking varies from state to state, but the SRC defines it as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

Stalkers use many different tactics to contact victims. Below are some ways stalkers interact with victims.

Multiple contact attempts

This includes calls to a personal or work phone, texts and

McCrary gave an example of a family that was splitting up. The mother has custody of the child, but visits with the dad. The father may give the child a cell phone for him to call the child on but asks it be a secret.

The father may have the phone set to automatically pick up so he can hear everything that goes

Unwanted visits

This can be the perpetrator going to the victim's workplace or trying to meet them in public to catch them off guard.

Gifts

NUTE - Teeth

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The gifts may or may not be directed toward the victim. If children are involved, it could be a gift for the child.

"[It could be] something as simple a single red rose or finding it laying on your porch. He might have her, 'When you get the red rose, I'm going to kill you," McCrary said.

Peggy Klinke was a young woman who was stalked and murdered by her ex boyfriend in 1998. Klinke's stalker approached her in the parking lot at work to give her flowers and ask her to marry him.

Driving by a house

The stalker may drive past the victim's house or places they frequent even when the victim has a protective order.

Using social media and technology

The stalker may use a friend or family members account as a way to keep track or harass the victim or create a fake account to reach the victim.

The perpetrator could send tracking spyware to the victim's cell phone.

"They can send you something with an attachment or they can send it through a different phone number or they can send information from a computer to a phone. It will change the identity of where it is coming from where you can't trace it," Mc-Crary said.

The actions of a stalker are not limited to these examples. According to McCrary, the average length of a stalking occurrence is two-and-a-half years and offenders on average make contact with victims at least once a week.

The age group most likely to be stalked ranges is from 18-24 years-of-age.

"Stalking is hard to prosecute because it's people that are doing just enough to really harass and make that victim feel very fearful," MCN FVPP Manager Shawn Partridge said.

For more information about stalking or for services, contact FVPP at: 918-732-7979.

HVFE - Thigh

TU team studies pain among **Oklahoma Native Americans**



Psychologists gauge pain tolerance, reaction

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. more tolerance for pain or do Native people just handle pain differently?

That's what a team of University of Tulsa clinical psychologists wants to discover long project.

Jamie Rhudy are conducting research among Oklahoma Native peoples with funding from a division of the National Institute of Health.

According to Rhudy, a reaction to pain, such as touching a hot stove or an injuring a limb, is humans.

"Pain serves a very adaptive function for us," Rhudy said. "Without pain, we don't know what's dangerous; we don't know how to avoid things that are dangerous; we don't know how to learn about things that are dangerous so we can avoid them quite good for us."

Shadlow added, after meeting people deal with pain.

Rhudy explained, "What we're very interested in, is this notion of pain; what it is, methodology. the physiological signals and reactions that go into pain processing. But what we're most interested in, is the individual differences that are associated with pain."

Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is to, "Identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy American individuals."

There is not currently much research or data on Native Americans specifically and that prompted them to launch their effort.

"There has been some studies looking at Caucasians, Mexican-Americans, African-Americans but nothing had been done yet sensors, electrical stimuli or on Native Americans.

"One of the things that we wanted to do is that, if we're eventually going to look at creating certain treatments to help Native Americans manage pain better, then we want to make sure that we want to understand what is actually going on in that population in terms of how they're processing pain," Shadlow said.

They felt the results were free applicants.

compelling.

interesting differences between the Native Americans that we American Pain Risk: (OKtested and the Caucasians that SNAP) or call: 918-631-2175.

we tested," Shadlow said.

Rhudy conceded that those differences were still being studied so no definite conclusions can be reached yet.

"So, we're very much interested in these individual differences Do Native Americans have and whether the differences between groups of people that might then, allow us to tailor our interventions to that specific population, but also within the group," Rhudy said.

She explained that their through an almost, four year motives stemmed, not only on the lack on Native-focused Dr. Joanna Shadlow and Dr. research, but also the priorities of existing studies.

"One of the main reasons we were interested in following up this line of work was, when we looked at the literature, not only had there been very little done to study pain in the Native Americans, but what an important safety factor for little had been done primarily had focused on prevalence rates.

> "When we looked at the literature, what we found is that chronic pain rates were higher within the Native American population than any other ethnic group that we looked at," Rhudy said.

Shadlow added that their in the future. Pain ends up being earlier studies had shown that same information.

"In that pilot study, we found Rhudy, they decided to work significant differences indicating together to fill the gap in that Native Americans were information about how Native higher in terms of threshold of pain tolerances...more pain and perhaps, less pain aware."

Shadlow outlined the

"Currently, we have a study funded by the National Institute of Health and we're recruiting 420 Native Americans and 120 white Americans.

"We're looking at many Their objective in this different mechanisms to see study, according to the TU how they're interpreting the painful stimuli that we have in our lab. So we're looking at ischemia pain (pain associated with decreased blood flow), (currently pain-free) Native pressure pain, hot pain and a few others," Shadlow said.

> For instance, Shadlow said participants will be subjected to placing their hand in a tub of cold water to be monitored and measured. They will also be asked to write descriptions of the experience.

> For other types of pain, heat even emotional photographs are used to obtain the data. Each test, Shadlow added, is conducted under safe conditions and is closely monitored.

> Sessions usually last about five hours, and participants are reimbursed \$100 for each day they take part.

> The study will continue for another three years and they're are still seeking healthy pain-

Prospective participants "We found some really may go to the Facebook page: Oklahoma Study of Native

A word search from the Myskoke Language Preservation Program: Body Parts

ERA - Back EKV - Head NOKWV - Neck **ELE HVCKOWV - Leg Shin** TUROFV - Face ENKE - Hand YUPO - Nose ENKE-WESAKV - Finger **HOKPE** - Chest HVCKO - Ear SVKPV - Arm ELE - Leg TURWV - Eyes **EKUCE** - Elbow EKVLPE - Brain TORKOWV - Knee CUKWV - Mouth 0 E Η C K U K V U Р Τ U K Ε K Ε K V K W C Ε R Ε K Ε P E Ε K Η Τ O F 0 R 0 U Ε I Ν K E N 0 Ε T U K W Ε K K K R S S Ε R Ε ٧ U R T S E N Ε 0 S K K H E K P S W Ε Α 0 U U C K V Ν P K O S W Ε Ε K Ε C R K ٧ 0 R K Τ R K H P W 0 Ε R Η U K O

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

ELIJAH CHISHOLM



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Elijah Jordan Chisholm, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Feb. 5, 2015 at the age 17. He was born Oct. 2, 1997 to Frank Eugene Chisholm and Amanda Day Chisholm in Okmulgee.

Elijah was a great son and great grandson. We will all miss him - Love you Elijah from Grandma Chisholm.

He was preceded in death by his: uncle, Christopher Clay Chisholm; great-uncle, George Autaubo; great-grandparents, Frank Buck Chisholm, Winona Wells, George Clay Autaubo and Johnny Joe Asbury and greatgreat grandmother, Sarah Simmers.

Survivors include his: father, Frank E. Chisholm and wife, Sherry of Okmulgee; mother, Amanda Day Chisholm of Morris, Okla.; brothers, Tyler Sanders, Jesse Chisholm and Marcus Day; sisters, Scarlet Jaden Day, Adrianna Chisholm and Faith Chisholm-Haney; grandparents, Frank Chisholm, Jr. and wife, Linda; grandparents, James Henry Day and wife, Ruth; great-grandmother, Rebecca Autaubo; aunts, Bonnie Chisholm and husband, Joey Cosby, Crystal Walker and husband, Harold Walker, Jr., Patricia Day, Diana McMahan and husband, Jimmy, Jennifer Day and numerous other relatives and friends.

Wake Services were held Feb. 12 at the Jackson Funeral Home Chapel in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held Feb. 13 at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church in Okmulgee with speakers, Stephen Kahbeah, Timothy Autaubo and Rodnev Autaubo.

Burial followed the service at the Miller Cemetery under the direction of the Jackson Funeral Home and Crematory in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers are: Tyler Sanders, Josh Autaubo, Brandon Autaubo, Christian McMahan, Taylor Alexander and Ryan Holata.

Honorary Pallbearers are: Frank Chisholm, Jr., Wendell Autaubo, Jerry Sloma, Timothy Pridgen, Marcus Day, James Day, Justin Alexander, Samuel Sloma, Jonathon Autaubo, Matthew Autaubo, Rodney Autaubo, Timothy Autaubo, Jimmy McMahan, Thompson Williams, Joey Cosby, Harold Walker, Jr., Marcus Birdtail and Shawn Baldridge.

Friends may send their condolences to: www.jacksonfhandcrematory.com.



MAXINE WHITE



EUFAULA, Okla. — Eliza Maxine Barnett White went home to be with the Lord Feb. 11, 2015. She was born July 17, 1937 to Edmond Barnett and Mandy Simmons Barnett in Hanna, Okla.

She was a long time resident of Eufaula. She graduated from Eufaula High School and later attended Connors Jr. College, Wes Watkins and Wesleyan College in Bartlesville, Okla. Her career included working as a surgical tech and a dietician. She was also a Mary Kay representative. In 1999, Maxine married her long-time friend Jack White in Ozark, Ark. Maxine enjoyed spending time with her family and her pets.

She is preceded in death by: her mother, Mandy Barnett; father, Edmond Barnett and brothers, Austin Barnett and Edmond Barnett Jr.

She is survived by: her husband, Jack, step-son Dale and a host of nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were held Feb. 16 at the Hillabee Indian Baptist Church in Hanna. Wake services were held Sunday night at the Hunn, Black & Merritt Funeral Home in Eufaula. The services was be officiated by Gary Hawkins, Ernest Best and Kenneth Loman. Burial will follow at the Hanna Cemetery. Online condolences may be made to the family at: www.hbmfuneralhome.com.

Citizenship addresses misinformation about **IDs at Walgreens**

MCN Citizenship/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office was made aware of signage posted at the Walgreens in Okmulgee stating that they could no longer accept "Indian Nations' ' identification cards for the drop off and pick up of prescriptions per the "Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics." In February 2014, Citizenship went through the process of having the new MCN Citizenship ID approved with OBN for use at pharmacies. After learning of the signage at Walgreens, we reached out to OBN to verify that our approval was still in good standing. Per OBN, the MCN ID is one of two tribal identification cards approved for use at pharmacies. OBN contacted the Walgreens pharmacy in Okmulgee and informed them that their signage was indeed incorrect. Walgreens has since corrected the issue and we hope to have no other problems. If citizens have an issue with a pharmacy not accepting the new identification cards, please contact the Citizenship Office so that we can research it further at:

918-732-7941.

Eufaula Dormitory to host annual art show

Eufaula Dormitory/Media Release

EUFAULA, Okla. — The Eufaula Dormitory and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Wellness Program have partnered to host the art show entitled 'Empowerment in Environment: Strength Within.' The students will utilized a acrylic and canvas medium and the focus will be on expressing feelings that demonstrates strength in their surroundings, empowerment in their community or tribal settings or embracing the strong tradition of the Eufaula Boarding School.

Due to subject matter, the project will be coordinated and supervised by a licensed art therapist. The artwork will be created by students from 1st- 12th grades enrolled at the Eufaula Dormitory.

The art show will be displayed in the cafeteria on the Eufaula Dormitory campus March 11 from 6-7:30 p.m. MCN Youth Wellness is a tribal program that will provide prevention education and wellness services to our students and will sponsor all of the art supplies for the

Some of the artwork will be for sale through silent auction and the money will go directly to the students. Resource booths from the MCN will be set up to provide information to the community on various subjects.

Alumni are encouraged to attend. There will be drawings for door prizes and refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Norman at: 918-689-2522.

Side information: we ask that any MCN program or private program that would like to set up an information booth at the art show to contact us to confirm the space and to donate a door prize for the drawing.

Mvto

2015 MCN Summer Youth enrollment open

MCN E&T/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Enrollment is open for the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Program offered through the MCN Department of Education and Training.

Applications will be accepted Jan. 2 - March 31 from youth ages 16-21 who are citizens of a federally recognized tribe and reside within the MCN jurisdiction. Income guidelines apply to all tribes except MCN.

Applications are available at: http://tinyurl.com/ MCNSummerYouth2015.

Contact MCN E&T at: 1-800-482-1979, 918-732-7777 or: youthworks@mcn- nsn.gov.



MCNDH receives AAAHC accreditation

MCNDH/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The MCN Department of Health has achieved accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Accreditation distinguishes the MCN Department of Health from many other outpatient facilities by providing a safe work environment and the highest quality of care to its patients as determined by an independent, external process of evaluation.

Status as an accredited organization means the MCN De-

partment of Health has met nationally recognized

MUSCOGEE stan-**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** dards

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the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC. More than 5,000 ambulatory health care organizations across the United States are accredited by AAAHC. Not all ambulatory health care organizations seek accreditation; not all that undergo the rigorous on-site survey process are granted accreditation.

"We believe our patients deserve the best," stated MCNDH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith. "When you see our certificate of accreditation, you will know that AAAHC, an independent, not-for-profit organization, has closely examined our facility and procedures. It means we as an organization care enough about our

patients to strive for the highest level of care possible."

Ambulatory health care organizations seeking accreditation by AAAHC undergo an extensive self-assessment and on-site survey by AAAHC expert surveyors - physicians, nurses and administrators who are actively involved in ambulatory health care. The survey is consultative and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization improve its care and services.

"Going through the process chal- lenged us to find better

> ways to serve our patients, and it is a constant re-

minder ESTABLISHED 1970 that our responsi-

bility is to strive to continuously improve the quality of care we provide," said Smith.

The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, founded in 1979, is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation with more than 5,000 organizations accredited nationwide. AAAHC serves as an advocate for the provision of high-quality health care through the development of nationally recognized standards and through its survey and accreditation programs. AAAHC accreditation is recognized as a symbol of quality by third-party payers, medical organizations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies and the public.

MISS INDIAN WORLD **APPLICATIONS DUE** MARCH 20

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. dian World Pageant are due Course in Seminole. March 20.

The winner will be crowned at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow April 25 in Albuquerque.

Download the application at: www.gatheringofnations.com.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 21

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel, 8815 E 101 St., Tulsa OK, has set a wild onion dinner for March 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners, which include: wild onions, brown beans, salt meat or ham, frybread and a vegetable, desert and drink are \$4 for children and \$8 for adults.

For more information call Sandra Bible at: 918-815-7973.

INDIGENOUS OUTREACH REVIVAL SET FOR MARCH 23-27

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Indigenous Outreach Revival is set for 7 p.m. nightly, March 23-27 at the Myskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

For more information call Grover Wind at: 918-398-3393 or Fred Lowe at: 918-843-2265.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 28

OKMULGEE, Okla. Concharty United Methodist Church has set a wild onion dinner for March 28 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 19040 Garfield Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Adults and take out are \$10 and children 10 and under are

For more information call: 918-366-8450.

DISC GOLF TOURNA-MENT SET FOR APRIL 4

SEMINOLE, Okla. — A disc golf tournament is set for 9 a.m. Applications for the Miss In- April 4 at Mekusukey Disc Golf

> The deadline to sign up and pay the \$25 entry fee for adults and \$20 for children ages 8-13 is March 22.

> For more information call Shane Phillips at: 405-584-1126.

NATIVE ART MARKET SET FOR APRIL 25

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The second annual Checotah Native Art Market is set for April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Heartland Heritage Center Museum and Gallery, 116 N. Broadway, Checotah, OK 74426.

For more information call Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Jon Tiger at: 918-850-3806.

List of upcoming MNN deadlines

MNN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation

March 15 — March 6

April 1 — March 25

April 15 — April 7

May 1 — April 23

May 15 — May 7

June 1 — May 22

June 15 — June 8

July 1 — June 22





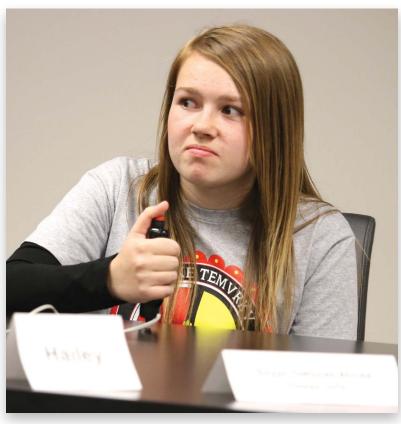








































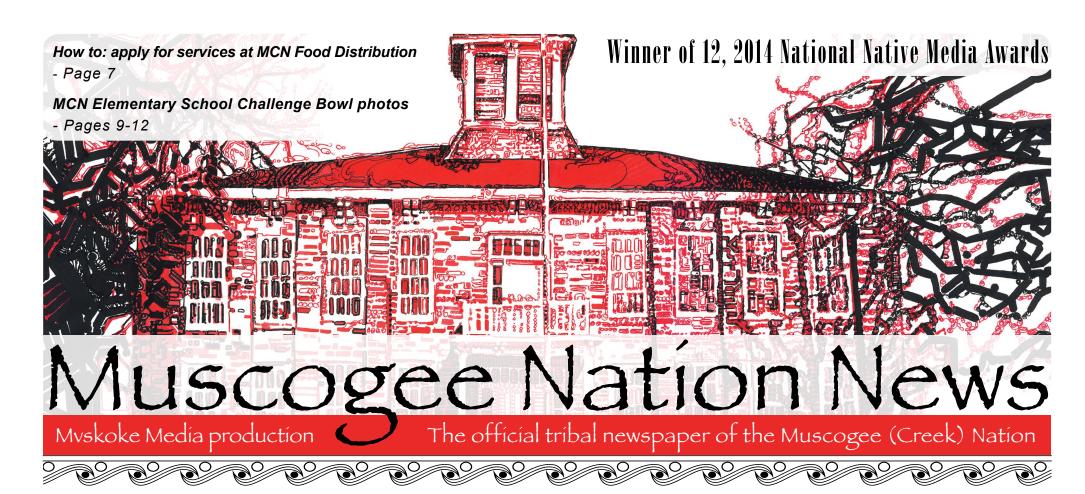












Elementary School Challenge Bowl wraps competition for 2015

47 elementary teams narrow to one winner

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 16th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elementary School Challenge Bowl Competition was held as the last division of the tournament Feb. 20 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

Forty-seven teams of third through fifth grade students squared off to find out who was the most knowledgeable about Mvskokvlke.

One thing that lingered in the mind of CB match judge and score keeper Nathan Barnett was the sportsmanship of the competitors.

"I have seen a few teams get up and not only wait to be recognized, but go over to the other team and congratulate them and thank them for having a good match," Barnett said. "Also, coming by and thanking us and shaking our hand as well."

First time participate Kaya



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Elementary School Challenge Bowl Competition volunteer Jim Thomas updates the CB bracket as the competition progressed Feb. 20, at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla.

Arden from the Checotah Sooner Native team, experienced a few surprises during the competition.

"I think it is pretty cool because this is my first time doing it and I am surprised that they would actually provide the food for us," Arden said. "I had a corn dog, some potato chips and a Gatorade and a granola bar."

Checotah sponsor Annette

Hicks said the team picked the name because they are Sooner football fans and also Native American.

Teams Beggs Hvtke and Glenpool Black entered the 11th round semifinals. Glenpool Black advanced to the finals to face Glenpool Blue where Blue

prevailed over Black 110-100. Beggs Hvtke placed third and also received the Wilburn Gouge Honors Team Award.

Barnett commented on his experience as a volunteer.

"The hardest part is having to tell them incorrect; you know, because they try so hard," Barnett said. "It is always good to see them out and learning about the culture through this way of match

and challenge."

March 15, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 6 "Taşahcuce" Little Spring



Over \$163k approved for **MFSI** during **Council session**

Additional forensic audit funding postponed until next session

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council held a regular session March 3 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- NCA 15-016 Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the MCN Headstart Program fiscal year 2015 budget; which was returned as a veto on Feb. 13. The Council voted 16-0 to allow the veto to stand.
- TR 15-019 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and the Indian Health Service for the employment of April Haddock as commissioned personnel at the Sapulpa Indian Health Center. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-020 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a facility services contract between MCN and the McAlester Regional Health Center for the purpose of providing inpatient and outpatient care to eligible Native American patients referred by medical providers of MCN. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-021 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding on behalf of the MCN Department of Health with Medco Health Solutions Inc. and Express Scripts Inc. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-022 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a physician participation agree-

Council - 3

CMN launches health and wellness services

Students to benefit from on-campus assistance

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation announced the college's new Health and Wellness Services Feb. 18, during the kick off event at the CMN Student Center in Okmulgee.

HWS is a collaboration between CMN and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Behavioral Health Services to advocate wellness education, healthy lifestyles and stress management.

"[It is] designed to promote awareness for substance abuse, mental health and an added component is the sexually transmitted infections," CMN Dean of Student Affairs Monte Randall said.

HWS was made possible by a Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration multiyear grant for minority serving



Students gather Feb. 18, at the College of the Muscogee Nation Student Center in Okmulgee, Okla., for the CMN Health and Wellness Kick Off Event to learn about the programs offered through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health.

intuitions. CMN was one of three tribal colleges nationwide to receive this grant.

During the kick off event, MCNDH Secretary of Health Cmdr. Seneca Smith BHS Manager Tamara Newcomb spoke to students about the services available

within MCNDH.

"We just recently collaborated with a grant through the college so we can get our services more out there; and so that everyone is more aware of what we offer and what health services are offered with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Smith said.

HWS staff consists of Case Manager Elise Brown and Administrative Assistant Candise Noon.

"What I do is help students locate resources for whatever needs they have, whether it is

Wellness - 4



MUSCOGEE NATION №

STAFF

INTERIM DIRECTOR CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE

jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

Tulsa Indian Arts Festival kicks off artistic year



MNN/Gary Fife

Myskoke flute player/maker Nelson Harjo fine-tunes a flute for sale to attendees of the Greater Tulsa Indian Arts Festival held Feb. 13-15 at the Glenpool Conference Center in Glenpool, Okla.

Inter-tribal show launches Indian arts circuit

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The 2015 Indian arts circuit has begun through the Greater Tulsa Indian Arts Festival.

Held Feb. 13-15, at the Glenpool Conference Center, the 2015 event was a combination of: arts market, storytelling and musical performances, American Indian food, a student art competition and other cultural activities.

Gwen Red Corn

Gwen Red Corn (Osage/Seneca) is the volunteer coordinator for the show and has been a part of the festival for nine years. Red Corn explained that one of the prime purposes of the annual show is to find funds for arts education, along with their regular arts competition.

"This is to continue their ven-

being able to receive their education and further their careers," Red Corn said. "We do have a iuried art contest with local Native American students. We also have the artists themselvesthe vendors who have booths in the event are also judged."

The Tulsa festival is important to Native artists, both locally and across the country. Red Corn said that holding this event in the early part of the year is designed to make it the jumping off point for the year's lineup of shows and competitions.

"They like to make it to Glenpool, Oklahoma first. Then they start out with the spring and summer commitments that they've already made," Red Corn said. "So, that's why we feel privileged that they stop here with us for three days and start their year off with us."

The economic return of art sales is critical to the show and to the artists themselves.

"It's vital that they kick off tures in being young artists and the year very well to substantiof the year," Red Corn said. Merlin Little Thunder

ate what they need for the rest

Southern Cheyenne citizen Merlin Little Thunder is one of the painters participating in the Tulsa show. For him, it is a matter of financial support and enjoying a shared profession with other artists.

"It's a big part of my life," Little Thunder said. "We do our best to try and share it and make sure that everybody come over here and has the opportunity to support themselves through endeavors." their artistic

He outlined which of the two were more important to him.

"We always cover our expenses, we always cover our travel, but you know, most importantly; we get to be among one another; we get to share our comradery with each other. We always look forward to seeing one another at the next show," Little Thunder said.

Traci Rabbit

Cherokee Nation citizen Traci Rabbit is the 2015 Tulsa Indian Arts Festival Premiere Artist. Rabbit works in several media, including painting, ceramics and acrylics. Her booth was filled with paintings, coffee mugs, mouse pads and other decorative items.

Her work is designed and priced to appeal to a broad array of potential buyers.

"As artists, we have to pay out expenses," Rabbit said. "You have your booth fee, your travel, your gas, your food and so, having the gift items in a variety of price ranges helps."

A strong focus of Rabbit's work istheroleNativeAmericawomen.

"I think, as Native American women, that we are very capable of working in both worldsthe Anglo world and Native world," Rabbit said. "I like to do my art, show the strength and how she can weather all storms no matter what she faces and come out on the other side in a positive manner."

Like the other artists, the Tulsa event acts as a starting point for her year.

"It's a home show and we, as local artists; we like to support what's going on in the Tulsa area. It is the start of the art festivals for the year," Rabbit said.

William Harjo

Muscogee (Creek) citizen William Harjo brought his river cane and cedar flutes and other handicrafts to the Tulsa show.

For Harjo, the making and selling of his flutes was a way to regain energy lost during medical and professional challenges.

"After I started making them, somebody recommended that I take some to a powwow, maybe make gas money," Harjo said. "I've been doing that ever since."

Harjo said that the Tulsa Indian Arts Festival allows him to blend the arts and crafts discipline with more pure artistic expression.

"This here, allows me to cross the line as an arts and crafts vendor into more of an artist status by being allowed to be here," Harjo. "As far as art, most of it is based on visual. My art is into tuning and the sound that I'm producing rather than the visual. This is what I call 'usable art.' "

The Tulsa Indian Arts Festival serves another purpose—reminding Oklahomans that its Native cultures and people are still an important part of the community.

"I believe it educates a lot of people...we have dancers here; we have flute players here, all of our culture that we can expose to someone who is interested and respectful," Red Corn said.

Shelter to help keep dogs off Eufaula streets



Outgoing City of Eufaula Mayor and current Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Manager Selina Jayne Dornan poses with puppy Maggie May during a dedication ceremony Feb. 20 for Hope Haven Animal Rescue, a new no kill animal shelter in Eufaula, Okla.

Dornan shows love of animals through act as outgoing mayor

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

EUFAULA, Okla. — Current Muscogee (Creek) Nation Public Relations Manager and outgoing mayor of the city of Eufaula Selina Jayne Dornan has always been an animal lover.

"Ever since I was young, I have always had animals," Jayne Dornan said.

So for her last duty as mayor of Eufaula, Jayne Dornan wanted to finish something she started shortly after she took office in

What started out as a group of volunteers, has turned into what is now called a no-kill shelter that will take the stray dogs off the street and give them some-

where to stay. "At one time, we were housed in an old building in the dump grounds," Jayne Dornan said. "We had makeshift pens for the dogs but it was very hot in that metal building for the animals and volunteers who took care of them."

Through grants and donations, they were able to get a shelter that is suitable to house stray dogs until they are adopted or are placed in a foster home.

"This new shelter will be like going from nothing to the penthouse," President of Hope Haven Animal Rescue Glen Creekmore said. "This new shelter will give us the kennels we need for the dogs. We will be going from having six kennels up to 20."

There is also a plan should there be an overflow.

"We have an area outside that we are going to be using and making extra kennels in case of overflow," Jayne Dornan said. "We will have those kennels to use plus the foster families. Also, worst case scenario, some volunteers do take some dogs home to care for them and the shelters in Checotah help us out as well."

According to Jayne Dornan, in the six years before she took office, she tallied that the city of Eufaula had euthanized over 1,000 dogs.

Stray animals are an issue in most communities. In Eufaula, there was not a suitable place to house the animals so the city had no choice but to euthanize them.

The city ordinance was that if the dog was not adopted or claimed within three days, it was to be euthanized. Jayne Dornan had that changed to 10 days.

"That was for certain situations if the family lost their dog and it was in our shelter," Jayne Dornan said. "Those have happened before."

The shelter will be run by a non-profit organization called the Hope Haven Animal Rescue.

"They will basically oversee the shelter," Jayne Dornan said. "We will also have an animal control person that is going to be getting the dogs off the streets."

What about the stray cats? According to Creekmore, they

will be filing for a grant for a catch and release program that deals with stray cats. The cats will be caught, checked over for any diseases, spay and neutered, updated on vaccination, marked and tagged and then released.

Why released back into the streets?

"There is not a lot we can do with the cats," Creekmore said. "There are way too many to be sheltered."

According to Creekmore, the research on the catch and release program will make a dent in the stray cat population.

"It will be a serious impact on the cats that are running loose," Creekmore said. "It will take about three years before we see what it is doing but it will help

Jayne Dornan and Creekmore had nothing but great things to say about the volunteers who help out with the shelters.

"Without the volunteers, this shelter would not be where it is at," Creekmore said. "We need them to keep this place running."

Creekmore spoke about how the citizens can help with the overflow of the stray dogs and

'Spay and neuter," Creekmore said. "Please help out with fostering and volunteering also."

List of upcoming MNN deadlines

MNN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is a list of upcoming deadlines to submit content for the 'Muscogee Nation

April 1 — March 25

April 15 — April 7

May 1 — April 23 May 15 — May 7

June 1 — May 22

June 15 — June 8 July 1 —June 22

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 — July 24

Aug. 15 — Aug. 7 Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8

Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

Oct. 15 — Oct. 7

Nov. 1 - 0ct. 23Nov. 15 — Nov. 6

Dec. 1 — Nov. 20

Dec. 15 — Dec. 7

CORRECTION

In the March 1 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' the media release titled, 'Council releases statement on forensic audit' contained an incorrect credit line. It should read 'National Council/Media Release.'

The MNN regrets this error. Sterling Cosper/Editor

Adult Literacy Program returns to Okmulgee



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Okmulgee Public Library is offering confidential adult literacy tutoring.

Free literacy education available for community

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Problems with adult literacy is not an issue often publically addressed in this day and age. However, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries website states that in Okmulgee County, 17 percent of people over the age of 18 do not have a high school diploma.

Okmulgee Public Library Director Kristin Cunningham has seen firsthand the struggle of adults without literacy skills.

"Their reading level is lacking to where they're not able to get jobs and become productive citizens because they can't fill out job applications. They don't know how to use a computer,"

Cunningham said.

Because a number of volunteers have stepped forward to help, the OPL is now able to offer adult literacy classes.

According to Cunningham, the library used to offer similar programs several years ago. It had been a goal of OPL to bring the Adult Literacy Program back, but they needed a volunteer to facilitate it.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and ALP Director Nathan Cross became involved when he called OPL looking for volunteer opportunities and learned of the dormant ALP.

"I wasn't really interested in sorting book or anything like that. She [Cunningham] said there is this one thing. 'I have really been looking for someone to get literacy program back going.' " Cross said. Including Cross, there are nine ODOL Literacy Council certified tutors.

Upon intake, participants fill out a general intake form comprised of contact information and preferences. Then, participants are tested to determine literacy level.

After testing, participants are matched with a tutor for one-on-one learning. Tutoring sessions are scheduled when the participants are available.

"[Scheduling] really just depends on the tutors flexibility and the learner's flexibility and when they are available," Cross said. "Because some people may work or have children."

Cunningham stressed that tutoring sessions and participant information is kept confidential.

"We try to keep it where, nobody knows what really is going on," Cunningham said.

According to Cross, assistance is readily available.

"I've got several tutors that are chopping at the bits and asking me all the time, 'When I am going to get paired with someone?' " Cross said.

The literacy program is free and open to all individuals ages 17 and up. For more information, call: 918-756-1448.

For information about other literacy programs, visit: www.odl.state.ok.us/lit/litprogs.asp.

Casino raises scholarship funds

Checotah gaming employees help community

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Checotah Casino is one of the biggest employment locations for the Checotah area, a community within the MCN jurisdiction.

On Feb. 17, the casino wanted to show how much they appreciate being in Checotah by giving back to the community by presenting a \$1000 check to the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program to fund a scholarship.

The casino collected money for the scholarship by allowing employees to wear jeans to work for a day if they donated \$1.

"This has been a great fundraiser," MCN Checotah Casino CEO Kyle Reans said. "The staff loves it. The patrons love it and it helps boost employee morale."

He said that this is not the first of such ventures.

"We have done a previous fundraiser for a Relay for Life team," Reans said. "It was successful for that team and the employees here wanted to keep that going."

According to Reans, the staff decided to do another fundraiser when the MCN HESFP approached them about their program.

"It shows that our employees care about our community," Reans said.

The staff at the casino wanted to fund a scholarship for one senior at Checotah High School.

"We want to give back to our community,"
Reans said.
"What better do it than by giving

way to do it than by giving a scholarship to a graduating senior from Checotah?"

MCN HESFP Director Dr. Peter Coser spoke about the scholarship and what it does for not only their program but to the student who it is awarded to.

"It is a good feeling knowing these employees care about their community and showing it by having a fundraiser," Coser said.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment on behalf of MCNDH with Humana Insurance Company and Humana Health Plan Inc. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 15-023 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a hospital participation agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Humana Insurance Company and Humana Health Plan Inc. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-024 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a Muskogee Civic Center room rental agreement. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-025 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a use of school property agreement with Beggs Public Schools. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-026 Authorizing the execution of a Federal Transit Administration fiscal year 2015 certifications and assurances. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-027 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and IHS for satisfactory domestic water supply and adequate sewage disposal for Indian homes within MCN. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-028 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 35 acres of tribal property located in Wagoner County. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-029 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 160 acres of tribal property located in Creek County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-030 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a surface damage agreement on tribal property located in Creek County. Deere sponsored the

resolution, which passed 15-0.

- TR 15-031 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service line agreement with Public Service Company of Oklahoma for the purpose of providing and maintaining electrical service to the Koweta Food Distribution Facility. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-032 Authorizing the executive branch to prepare and submit grant applications to the various federal and state governmental agencies and private foundations for both FY 2015 and FY 2016 and authorizing the principal chief to execute all necessary grant documents. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-033 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a standard form of agreement and guaranteed maximum price amendment with Manhattan Redstone, a joint venture for renovations to River Spirit Casino. Rep. David Hill and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- TR 15-034 Authorizing the principal chief to submit a bid to the City of Checotah to purchase real property in McIntosh County and to purchase the real property if the bid is awarded. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-020 Authorizing a \$866.05 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Lucian Tiger and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-3 with Rep. James Jennings, David Nichols and Darrell Proctor voting against it.
- NCA 15-021 Authorizing a \$1,500 donation to the 25th annual Trail of Hope Native American Sobriety Conference. Nichols sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-022 Authorizing the expenditure of the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Fund for the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-023 Authorizing a \$30,000 donation to Graham-Dustin Public School. Rep. Frank Coachman and Jack spon-

sored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 15-024 Authorizing a \$513.03 appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-4 with Jennings, Nichols, Proctor and Hill voting against it.
- NCA 15-026 Authorizing MCNDH to create a \$350,000 budget line item for interest expense for the new Okemah Hospital and new Eufaula Clinic and the expenditure of MCNDH third party investment funds for interest payments related to the Okemah Hospital construction and the Eufaula Clinic joint venture project. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15.0
- NCA 15-027 Authorizing MCNDH to create a \$440,060 budget line item for the MCN Medical Center EMS Program and the expenditure of MCNDH third party funds for the MCNMC EMS Program. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-028 Authorizing MCNDH to create a \$692,459 budget line item for the MCNDH Orthodontics Program and the expenditure of MCNDH third party funds for the MCNDH Orthodontics Program. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-029 Authorizing the MCNDH to create a \$834,646 budget line item for the MCNMC MRI and the expenditure of MCNDH third party funds for the purpose of funding the operation of the MCNMC MRI. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-030 Creating a Reintegration Program revolving fund account for various fundraising activities of RIP. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-032 Authorizing MCNDH to expend \$725,000 in MCNDH third party investment funds for expenses related to the Eufaula Clinic joint venture project. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-033 Authorizing a \$3,685 donation to the Council

of Holdenville American Indian Alumni. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

- NCA 15-034 Authorizing a \$1,250 special appropriation to five Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-035 Authorizing a \$1,500 special appropriation to six Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-037 Appropriating \$445,832.50 to Grant Thornton LLP to facilitate the forensic audit. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which was postponed until the next session scheduled March 28.
- NCA 15-038 Authorizing a \$2,000 donation to a political candidate. Barnett, Coachman and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 8-7 with Reps. Pete Beaver, Ade, Deere, Jennings, Nichols, Proctor and Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 15-039 Authorizing a \$20,000 donation to the National Indian Child Welfare Association to sponsor the 33rd annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on child abuse and neglect. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-1 with Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 15-041 Authorizing a \$805 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Jennings, Nichols and Proctor voting against it and Jack abstaining.
- NCA 15-042 Authorizing a \$960 special appropriation to Okfuskee Indian Community. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-043 Authorizing a \$163,195.43 donation to assist the Myskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative for continued operations. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Tiger and Jennings voting against it.
- NCA 15-044 Amending NCA 14-199 (A law of MCN authorizing an appropriation to fund the costs associated with the quarterly Inter-Tribal Council meeting of the Five Civilized

- Tribes. Reps. Adam Jones and Greene sponsored the amendment, which failed 5-10 with Deere, Coachman, Barnett, Hill, Hufft, Jack, Jennings, Nichols, Randolph and Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 15-045 Authorizing the \$120,000 expenditure of third party funds from the College of the Muscogee Nation by the MCNDH Behavioral Health Services for Hepatitis C prevention. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-046 Authorizing MCNDH to create a \$3,036,203 budget line item for construction costs for the MCNMC emergency room and the expenditure of MCNDH third party investment funds for construction costs for the MCNMC emergency room construction. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-047 Authorizing a \$50,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Environmental Services. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-048 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 15, Chapter 4, Section 4-101 entitled, 'Purpose' and 4-102 entitled, 'MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department Revolving Fund.' Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-049 Authorizing a \$120,431.50 special appropriation to the MCN Tribal Transit Program for the purchase of one 18-seat bus and one Americans with Disabilities Act compatible mini-van. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- NCA 15-050 Authorizing MCNDH to create a \$176,700 budget line item for the MCNMC Emergency Medical Service and the expenditure of MCNDH operations investment funds for the purchase of an ambulance and equipment for MCNMC Emergency Medical Service. Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

Who represents you: Pandee Moore Ramirez



MNN/Jessica McBride Okmulgee County District Judge Michael Claver conducts the swearing in ceremony for Okmulgee County Special District Judge Pandee Moore Ramirez who is accompanied by her husband and son.

First Muscogee (Creek) Okmulgee County judge sworn in

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — People young and old scrunched together on the courtrooms' wooden benches Feb. 12 for the Okmulgee County Special District Judge swearing in ceremony at the Okmulgee County Courthouse.

"I'm the first Muscogee (Creek) person that's been sworn in to any judge position for the state in this county," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Pandee Moore Ramirez said.

The swarm of attendees and the support she has received as she stepped into the role overwhelmed Moore Ramirez.

"It's very humbling and I'm honored to be in this position and to be in the community Moore Ramirez worked in child support enforcement and worked very closely with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation unit.

She hopes to continue this strong connection with MCN.

"We've got to be able to communicate with each other. I know the people out at the tribe; which is very beneficial.

"Everyday on my 3 o'clock docket I'm seeing Muscogee (Creek) warrants and things of that nature so we know how to kind of communicate back and forth and I'm hoping that will help open up some lines to make transitions and things like that easier," she said.

As a judge for Okmulgee County, Moore Ramirez hopes to be able to keep the dockets moving at a rapid pace.

"We've had some kind of stagnation in some of our criminal dockets; which has created a population problem in the jail," she said. "That has

"IT'S VERY HUMBLING AND I'M HONORED TO BE IN THIS POSITION AND TO BE IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE I WAS RAISED."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN PANDEE MOORE RAMIREZ

where I was raised," she said.

As the special district judge, Moore Ramirez will hear small claims cases, issue protective orders and preside over initial appearances in criminal cases.

She began her life thinking she wanted to help the community by becoming a social worker, and was inspired to go to law school and ultimately serve as a judge.

Okmulgee County District Judge Michael Claver said that Moore Ramirez stood out as a candidate when choosing the new special district judge.

"I've known Pandee since she was in high school and watched her grow up and mature as a young lawyer. She's been a valuable asset in child support and she's probably as near perfect a candidate for special judge as we could have picked," Claver said.

Prior to becoming a judge,

somewhat come under control in the last month or so and I hope to kind of help ease that a little bit more as I get in this position and get my feet on the ground."

She believes that the three district judges and herself will continue to communicate with each other and work as a team for the better of the community.

Moore Ramirez said that she will consider serving the public in other opportunities when the time comes.

"I think right now I want to get my feet on the ground with this position and kind of see where I am," she said. "Obviously the future is wide open at this point. I'm happy to be here and honored to be able to serve the county in this way."

Moore Ramirez is a member of the Bear Clan and Cussetah Tribal Town.

WELLNESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

behavioral health, any other outlying resources; you know, financially, those type of things," Brown said.

According to Brown, she wants to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health.

"I like to teach not only the students but the community members the importance of mental health; the importance of seeking services and keeping them," Brown said. "There is nothing wrong with you. We just kind of need some help; you know, developing skills to get through that."

Randall said to be looking for more programs, events and resources from HWS.

For more information contact Brown at: 918-549-2800.







MCN program utilizes 'by youth for youth' approach



NN/Amanda Rutla

Oklahoma Regional Turning Point Consultant Louise Micolites presents Feb. 7 during an advisory council meeting for the newly formed Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Services Program.

Youth Services to map existing aid, determine gaps

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Nancy Mason, Director of the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Services Program explained what sets this service apart from others geared toward juveniles at MCN.

"MNYS will be different in that young people will be involved in every step of program development," Mason said. "We have borrowed the philosophy of 'Nothing About Us Without Us.'"

She hopes this by-youth-foryouth approach will help MCN determine how the Nation can better serve its young citizens.

Mason explained that having youth involved in the initial conceptualization and further development of the program will also help them develop themselves.

"Young people working alongside adults and becoming aware

that their voice is just as important, if not more so," Mason said.

This was already utilized during a program advisory meeting held Feb. 7 at the MCN Council House in Okmulgee, Okla.

"Some young people developed the following overall goals for the program," Mason said:

Sustain the Myskoke way of life

"Currently, I am working on some grants focusing on culture and the arts. I would love to have some summer camps for our youth who are not into sports.

"Additionally, by bringing in artists and elders to teach our youth, we are supporting not only their culture, but connections with history," Mason said.

Identify gaps in services

"We recently completed a survey of the people. Overwhelmingly, they told us our youth need mentors, decision-making skills and life skills in general.

"I hope to work with the lo-

cal community centers and the Summer Youth Employment Program to offer some life skill classes beginning this summer," Mason said.

Promote existing health programs

"I have been a member of the Myskoke Tribal Child Youth Coalition (an MCN Department of Health affiliate) for about three years and it has been a great place to get connected and in the long run, help the young people I work with to access services.

"As director of MNYS, I am now able to be more involved in MTCYC and reach out to more agencies and individuals to connect. I also don't want to re-create the wheel," Mason said.

Connect youth to existing resources

"For example, I am partnering with Lucas Taylor and the Dog Soldiers for Christ during their March Madness event. I'll be doing a workshop so I will get to provide a service to youth while making people aware of our program.

"...Also, the more I learn about what resources are out there, the more I can do to connect youth, families and service providers to other agencies and opportunities," Mason said.

Build civic awareness

"Voter registration. Although the majority of the youth we service will be under the age of 18, I want youth to know the importance of voting.

"They can make a difference by learning about issues that are being voted on and encouraging their friends and family to get registered and vote. With this being an election year for MCN, I think this will be a good experience for the youth to see the process firsthand," Mason said.

"Leadership training. We all know young people who are amazing. You already know that they are leaders.

"However, this program is taking the position that all young people can be leaders. We are going to reach out to the youth who are more reserved; that don't 'look' like leaders and youth who are struggling," Mason said.

Empower Mvskoke youth

"Through empowerment, I hope that they will not only create the future they want, but realize they can be advocates for their peers too," Mason said.

Recruit and train youth advocates

"Getting the Youth Council started is a primary focus. I hope to have the members in place by the end of May so that the group can begin to set goals for the next year. "...Currently, the committee is only adults, but ide-

ally this group will have two

to three representatives from the Youth Council who will serve as advisory committee members too," Mason said.

Encourage positive relationships

"Ideally, I would love to see our Youth Council members go to their local communities and work with the youth and adults there to get our youth involved in the MNYS program goals on a local level," Mason said.

MCN Youth Services was created as a result of the 2014 MCN Strategic Planning Session.

"At that time, the group came up with an overall goal of 'Engaging Myskoke youth in organized activities that will contribute to the community and tribal community; and help them enhance their interests, skills and abilities into their adulthood," Mason said.

According to Mason, the program is currently working on a more definitive mission statement.

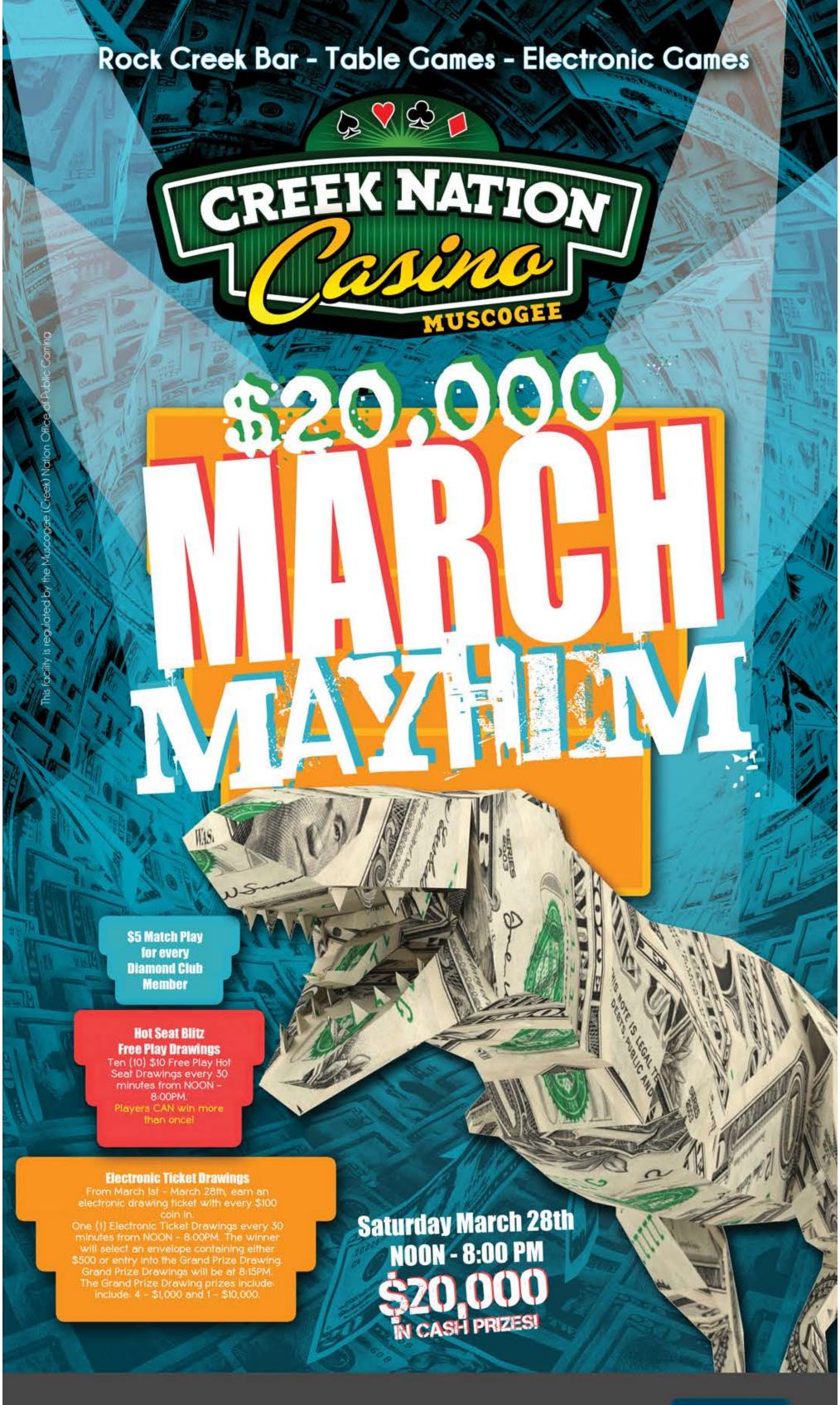
Mason obtained a master's of human relations degree from the University of Oklahoma and has worked with youth and families since 1994. Her primary focus has been in working with teenagers as they transition to adulthood.

"Getting to create a program from the ground up is scary and exhilarating at the same time.

"I feel like I have had some great work experiences in my life and have learned a lot about program development and working with youth so I am ready for this challenge," Mason said. For more information about MNYS call Mason at: 918-549-2557 or email:

n m a s o n @ m c n - n s n . g o v. Find MNYS on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MvskokeYouth and Instagram and Twitter: @MvskokeYouth.



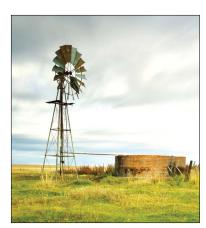


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How to: apply for Realty Trust Services



Shutterstock image

RTS assists citizens with land issues

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Trust Services Department works with citizens to solve and prevent land issues through different services.

Trust acquisitions

Trust acquisitions place land into trust. RTS will assist citizens with the necessary steps and paperwork to place land owned by individuals into trust.

"Anyone can apply to put their land in trust, but right now what we are trying to do is restricted to trust acquisitions. That is to save out restricted land because of the blood quantum issue," RTS Manager and Inter-Tribal Council Realty Program Chairperson Sonya McIntosh said.

McIntosh referred to the Act of August 4, 1947, also known as the 47 Act, which dictates that if restricted land is inherited by a person whose registered blood quantum is less than one half of any combination of the Five Tribes, the land loses restriction.

For more information on the 47 Act including trust and restricted land, read previous MNN article titled 'Law's nuances still removing land from Indian Country' in the Sept. 1, 2014 issue at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/ pdf/2014/20140901.pdf.

"Once you remove the restrictions off your property, you can never, ever, ever put restrictions back on, but you can put it in trust," McIntosh said.

There are some requirements for putting land into trust:

- There must not be a mortgage or loan on the property.
- Tax payments must be current and not past due.
- The property should be able to pass an environmental in-

To apply, visit the RTS office at the McCombs Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee. Bring your citizenship card, land deed, abstract and proof of payment for taxes.

McIntosh recommended that citizens apply for a homestead exemption on their property until the trust acquisition is complete.

Adverse Possession

McIntosh advises anyone who owns land to check on his or her property regularly. The 47 Act stipulates that restricted land falls under Oklahoma state jurisdiction, and can be lost to adverse possession.

Adverse possession is when someone other than the original landowner takes ownership of a property after using said land for a set amount of time.

In Oklahoma, adverse possession takes 15 years.

RTS offers boundary line and trespass surveys for family allotments of restricted land.

"If you own surface (rights), if you inherit (an allotment); you need to go find your property. And if you don't know, come in and we will take you," McIntosh

Trust Probates

RTS also conducts trust probates for trust land. Restricted and fee land require a district court probate.

When a landowner passes away, the land must go through probate, meaning that it will be legally transferred to another. If the landowner had a will deemed valid by the court, the instructions will be administered. However, if there was no will, the court will determine whom the land goes to. Usually it is the heirs of the landowner.

According to McIntosh, trust probates require an administrative law judge instead of district court judge like regular probates. RTS prepares the paperwork and sends it to the administrative law judge.

the services offered by RTS, call:

For more information about

How to: apply for services at Food Distribution

Program helps lowincome families with healthy foods

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program is a service that provides U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) donated foods to low-income Native American homes that qualify.

According to the MCN website, the MCN FDP goal is to provide timely services to any household who is eligible while preserving their pride and dignity. To apply:

Step 1 — Gather all the information needed to save time later. Required information first applicants: time

- Copy of Certificated Degree Indian Blood or citizenship card from a federally recognized tribe for at least one household member
- Verification of all household income for the past 30 days
- If over 18 and unemployed — a statement from a non-relative verifying the applicant is unemployed
- Verification of residence (gas, water or electricity bill with name and physical address)
- Copies of Social Security cards for all household members If you are reapplying for fur-

ther benefits, and it has not been over three years since you last applied, FDP has all the cards on file. The following will be needed:

- Verification of all household income for the past 30 days
- If over 18 and unemployed — a statement from a non-relative verifying the applicant is unemployed
- Verification of residence (gas, water or electric bill with

address) name and physical Any other changlast applied since 2 Com-Step

application the plete Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are interested in applying for the FDP may pick up an application by either:

- Calling FDP the Okmulgee office at: 918-549-2401 or Wetumka at: 405-452-1175.
- By mail in Okmulgee at: 3001 N. Wood Drive Okmulgee, OK 74447 or Wetumka at: 614 Spokoke Circle Wetumka, OK 74883
- Fax the Okmulgee office at: 918-549-2419 and the Wetumka office at: 405-452-1179

You can mail in your application, bring it into the office or send it by fax.

The MCN FDP Okmulgee office has gone paperless so they will fill out the application for you if you apply in person.

"While our Okmulgee office has gone paperless, our Wetumka office has not at the moment," Certification Supervisor Anita Lowe said. "The application process can take approxi-

mately 30 minutes to one hour." FDP staff usually processes the application and if approved, the applicant will get to pick up their food on the same day. If a citizen mailed or faxed in their application, it will usually take about seven working days to get a letter about approval.

Due to USDA regulations, federally recognized tribal citizens who live in: Muskogee, Sand Springs, Tulsa and Broken Arrow, Okla., cannot apply with FDP due to population size.

Elderly applicants ages 55 and up can be certified for the program for two years without having to reapply. All other applications will be



Mural by: Mary Howard

certified on a case-by-case basis. on stamps are ineligible.

There are tailgate services locations at the Koweta and Bristow Indian Community Centers where recipients who live away from the main FDP locations can go to pick up their food.

Tailgate pickups are on the second full week of every month. The time for Koweta is: Tuesday, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and Bristow is: Thursday from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

A face-to-face interview is held as the final part of the process to go over the application and income guidelines.

food distribunew tion Coweta, center in Okla., is set to open soon.

"Our projected date for us to move in to the store at Coweta is March 4," Lowe said.

The Food Distribution Store hours are from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. while office hours are from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The store will be closed the last two days of the month for inventory. more

information about the MCN Food Distribution Center, contact Okmulgee at: 918-549-2401 or Wetumka at: 405-452-1175.

Program aims to help pregnant women stop smoking

Campaign launched to get expecting women off tobacco

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has launched its version of a national campaign to prevent commercial tobacco use by pregnant women.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Tobacco Prevention Manager Carla Feathers, said the campaign is called 'Baby and Me: Tobacco Free.'

"We provide four sessions of pre-natal education to help them quit smoking," Feathers said. "After they get through with their four programs and they have their baby, they will come in once a month for the first year of their babies' life



ter decades of antismoking programs, Feathers said the problem still persists and Oklahoma has some of the worst statistics.

"The state of Oklahoma remains in the top states for tobacco users and American Indians are at the top of that list within Oklahoma," Feathers said. "We did a tobacco survey in 2012 and we found 46 percent of our Muscogee (Creek) women of child-bearing age were still smoking cigarettes and that's a huge number even in Oklahoma standards."

Feathers believes the reasons for this behavior are inherited from older societal customs.

"Back in the '40s and '50s, it was the norm to smoke," Feathers said. "I know my dad talks about taking smoke breaks at school. Children that grew up around smokers are 50 percent more likely to become smokers themselves."

The addiction from nicotine is stronger than some of what are considered the hardest

"It's actually more addictive than crack cocaine or heroin," Feathers said.

Even though some people may say that smoking habits come from a traditional relationship with Native people, Feathers said that is not the case.

"We hear the reason of it being a traditional use but commercial tobacco isn't a tradition to us and we have certain times and certain places where tobacco should be used and can be used and it's not addictive and its not harmful," Feathers said.

For an unborn child, Feathers said that the bad health effects of the mother continuing to smoke include: lower blood oxygen levels, which cause problems with the placenta; lower nutrients; higher heart rates and risk for miscarriages, still births, premature delivery and low birth weight.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention website lists further complications including higher risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and certain birth defects such as a cleft lip or palate.

According to the 2011 Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS) data from 24 states, approximately 10 percent of women reported smoking during the last three months of pregnancy.

The CDC reports that the benefits of a woman quitting smoking during pregnancy can be almost immediate and both the mother and child will

Your baby will get more oxy-Even af-

gen, even after just one day of not smoking.

There is less risk that your baby will be born too early.

There is a better chance that your baby will come home from the hospital with you.

You will be less likely to develop heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, chronic lung disease, and other smoke-related diseases.

You will be more likely to live to know your grandchildren.

You will have more energy and breathe more easily.

Your clothes, hair, and home will smell better.

Your food will taste better. You will have more money that you can spend on other

You will feel good about what you have done for yourself and your baby.

Feathers said that there are many resources available from the MCNDH to help someone to quit smoking including: medicines, nicotine replacement therapies and counseling.

"It's going to be a very nonjudgmental environment. We're there to help. We understand that this isn't going to be easy," Feathers said.

Feathers said that all counseling sessions are kept confidential.

The program may be contacted at: 918-756-6231 or you may drop by Suite 105 in the Baker building behind the MCN Medical Center (formerly Okmulgee Memorial Hospital) or email: carla-feathers@ creekhealth.org.

"I need to let you know that quitting smoking is the most important thing that you can do for your health and the health of your baby," Feathers

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 14

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Little Cussetah Church has set a wild onion dinner for March 14 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 11 and under.

For more information or directions call Rev. David Dunson at: 918-752-7098.

MCN SPRING CELEBRA-TION SET FOR MARCH 17

BEGGS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Spring Celebration is set for March 17 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Beggs High School, 1201 W. 9th St., Beggs, OK 74421.

The event is open to youth ages two and up and questions may be directed to Natalie Barnett at: 918-224-9307.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 21

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church has set a wild onion dinner for March 21 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 1901 N. College, Tulsa, OK 74110.

Dinners are \$8 and include: wild onions, beans, hominy, frybread, a choice of ham or salt pork, tea, coffee or water and a dessert. Grape dumplings are sold separately for \$2.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 21

TULSA, Okla. – Haikey Chapel, 8815 E 101 St., Tulsa OK, has set a wild onion dinner for March 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners, which include: wild onions, brown beans, salt meat or ham, frybread and a vegetable, desert and drink are \$4 for children and \$8 for adults.

For more information call Sandra Bible at: 918-815-7973.

INDIGENOUS REVIVAL SET FOR MARCH 23-27

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Indigenous Outreach Revival is set for 7 p.m. nightly, March 23-27 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

For more information call Grover Wind at: 918-398-3393 or Fred Lowe at: 918-843-2265.

COUNTRY JAMBOREE SET FOR MARCH 28

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Gold Wind Express performance group is holding a country jamboree show March 28 at the Okmulgee High School auditorium.

Proceeds will go toward the Okmulgee Lions Club.

For more information call Steven Baldridge at: 417-294-0466.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 28

OKMULGEE, Okla. Concharty United Methodist Church has set a wild onion dinner for March 28 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 19040 Garfield Road, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Adults and take out are \$10 and children 10 and under are \$6.

For more information call: 918-366-8450.

DISC GOLF TOURNA-MENT SET FOR APRIL 4

SEMINOLE, Okla. — A disc golf tournament is set for 9 a.m. April 4 at Mekusukey Disc Golf Course in Seminole.

The deadline to sign up and pay the \$25 entry fee for adults and \$20 for children ages 8-13 is March 22.

For more information call Shane Phillips at: 405-584-1126.

NATIVE ART MARKET **SET FOR APRIL 25**

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The second annual Checotah Native Art Market is set for April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Heartland Heritage Center Museum and Gallery, 116 N. Broadway, Checotah, OK 74426.

For more information call Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Jon Tiger at: 918-850-3806.

MCN SRO schedule

Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of March.

March 17, 24, 31 Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

For more information call: 405-452-1100.

2015 MCN Summer Youth enrollment open

MCN E&T/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Enrollment is open for the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Program offered through the MCN Department of Education and Training.

Applications will be accepted Jan. 2 - March 31 from youth ages 16-21 who are citizens of a federally recognized tribe and reside within the MCN jurisdiction. Income guidelines apply to all tribes except MCN.

Applications are available at: http://tinyurl.com/ MCNSummerYouth2015.

Contact MCN E&T at: 1-800-482-1979, 918-732-7777 or: youthworks@mcn-

Employment and Training hosts clothing drive

E&T/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. Donations for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Employment and Training Clothing Drive are due by March 31.

Our newest program is to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are in need of business and industrial attire and are seeking/attending job interviews or are recently hired. This program is part of supportive services that provide immediate assistance to individuals who are called for a job interview and may not have the proper clothing to wear or have recently been hired for employment that requires a certain dress code, including safety shoes or steel toe boots.

Bring your new or gently used clothing to the MCN ET office at U.S. Highway 75 and Oklahoma Loop 56 in Okmulgee. You may also contact our office at: 918-732-7780 or jmcbee@mcn-nsn.gov.

Donation boxes have also been placed at local businesses in the Okmulgee area. Please call to have a box placed at your location.

MCN to host 2015 Trading at the River Conference and **Native Marketplace**

ONABEN/Media Release

PORTLAND, Ore. ONABEN (Our Native American Business Network) announces the city for the annual Trading at the River Conference and Native Marketplace.

The conference, held for the last 11 years in Oregon and Washington, will be held May 2015 in Tulsa, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host the conference and Native marketplace at their properties, River Spirit Casino and RiverWalk.

Trading at the River is a two-day event that focuses on content to facilitate growing strong economies in Indian Country.

Veronica Hix, ONABEN Executive Director, expressed her appreciation at the opportunity to bring Trading at the River to Oklahoma.

"Trading at the River is a unique experience for entrepreneurs, small business owners and economic development practitioners to gather, exchange and grow. The change in venue next year will be a great opportunity to be able to share Trading at the River outside of the Pacific Northwest."

ONABEN Board Chairman, Jack Lenox, also commented that, "The Muscogee (Creek) Nation offered to host our event and, in line with ONABEN's growth and expanded services across Indian country, the ONABEN Board of Directors approved the city and venue change."

ONABEN will also partner with the Cherokee Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office and Myskoke Loan Fund to present Trading at the River. Anchoring the conference is a marketplace where Native artists, crafters and other vendors can showcase and sell their products and services.

For more information contact Selena Yokoyama at: 503-

Minors eligible for photos on new IDs

MCN Citizenship/Media Release

Effective immediately, children ages 12 and older are able to have their photo placed on their Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship ID. A parent or legal guardian must be present and must present the proper identification and/or documentation.

If you have any questions please contact the Citizenship Office at 918-732-7941. Also, if you know anyone who has not updated to the new Citizenship ID card please send them our way!



Urqhart to shoot at national competition



Teen places first at district tournament

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ashten Urqhart qualified for the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships after placing fourth at the Oklahoma state level air rifle tournament Jan. to take her 31 in Kingfisher, Okla.

Ashten, 16, has a few months to practice until the national competition June 21-26 in Grand Island, Neb.

To qualify for the state competition, Ashten placed first at the district air rifle competition Dec. 13 in Koweta, Okla.

In order to qualify for nationals, Ashten required of the top receive one four scores in the state competition. Each shooter is only eligible to attend the national competition once in their 4-H career.

Ashten has been a part of the Eufaula 4-H air rifle team for the past four years and attended the state competition each year.

"I've always liked shooting. I've gone hunting since as long as I can remember and I saw this as an opportunity to improve my shooting skills," Ashten said.

The competition consists of shooting standard and silhouette and standing positions.

"Most people like prone her high school career.

because it's laying down and easier for them, but I like to shoot standing up," Ashten said.

This year, Ashten practiced shooting silhouettes to improve her skills. She attributes her success in shooting to imagining she is hunting instead of aiming at a piece of paper.

Charlie, her father and coach, has tried to reinforce this technique coaching Ashten time with e r shots.

"He's a really great coach," Ashten said. "He's always really encouraging and he's always got my back." She said that having her

dad as a coach has reduced her nervousness at competitions. Charlie said that being a father-daughter team has

brought them closer. He said that being a part of the air rifle team was something that Ashten wanted to do and Charlie is happy to be a part of it.

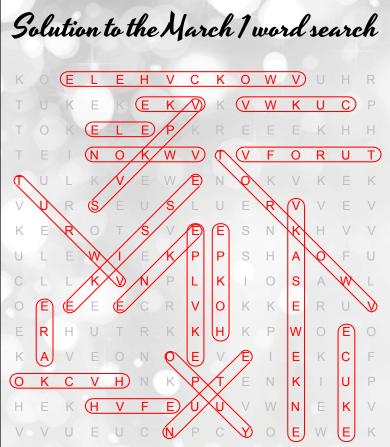
"I haven't had to do much encouragement. She's all about it herself and I just try to back her up when she wants to do something," Charlie said.

Being a part of the 4-H Club has taught Ashten leadership skills that she said will help her into her adult life.

She has also learned to step outside of her comfort zone.

"Always be open to new experiences and new opportunities to learn," Ashten

She plans to continue being a targets in the prone, kneeling part of the Eufaula 4-H Club Air Rifle Team for the remainder of













































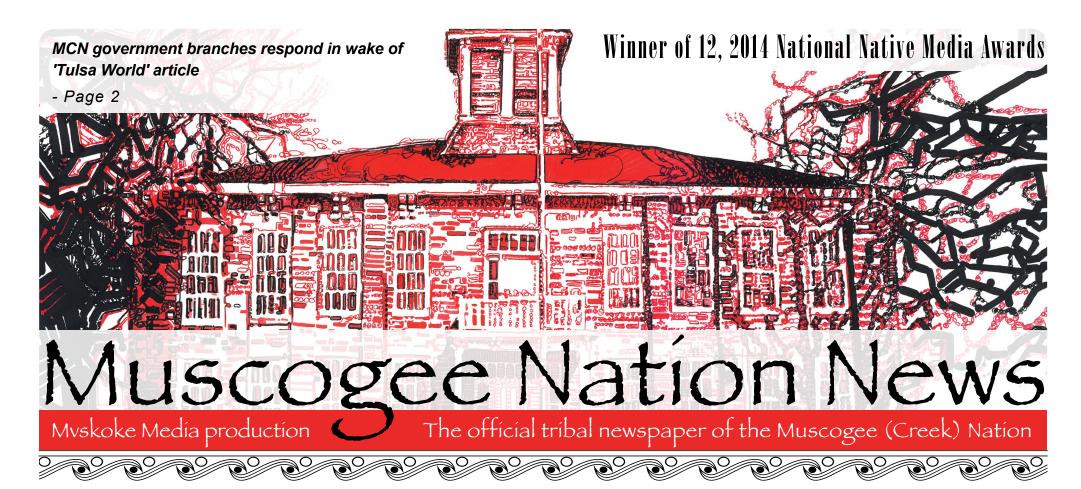












MCN delegates welcomed in D.C. for treaty exhibition

Muscogee citizens, descendants view living treaty

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

WASHINGTON, D.C. -The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives accompanied a delegation to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian March 16 for the installation and display of the 1790 Treaty of New York as part of the Nation to Nation Treaties Between the U.S. and American Indian Nations exhibit.

The 1790 Treaty of New York was the first treaty between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the newly formed U.S. government.

The delegation was comprised of active ceremonial representatives and descendants of the Muscogee (Creek) treaty signers.

They were allowed to view the document in private before it opened to the public.

continue the ways that was left with us, and to see and witness today that our people worked



Hickory Ceremonial Ground Mekko George Thompson speaks March 16 during a private viewing of the Treaty of New York for a Muscogee (Creek) delegation at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., before the document was put on display for the public.

"A lot of wisdom, that's what "We still exist and we try to I look at today to care for their people. Back in the times when their lands were invaded, to work with other countries, other

with the government way back governments to secure their but that it was in the past and he Ceremonial Ground Mekko Robert Yargee said.

Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground Mekko Phillip Deere said he had mixed feelings about the treaty,

"Like they said, what our elders put before us and the best and what was right for us and we keep

Treaty - 3

MCN principal chief wins American Indian Leadership Award

NCAIED recognizes **Tiger for economic** development

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

The LAS **VEGAS** Muscogee (Creek) Nation made its mark in Las Vegas during the 2015 National RES Reservation Economic Summit.

The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development hosted the event March 9-12 at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

This year's theme for the National RES was 'Honoring Our Past...Defining Our Future.'

According to NCAIED Chairman Derrick Watchman, the summit was designed as the 'place to be' for American Indian businesses to get connected for strategic growth opportunities.

"We want our businesses to thrive among our communities," Watchman said. "We feel that the networking here will help each other's businesses to not only get bigger but to get stronger."

During the event luncheon March 10, MCN Principal Chief



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger was presented with the 'American Indian Leadership Award' March 10 by National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development President/CEO Gary Davis.

George Tiger was presented the American Indian Leadership Award by NCAIED President/ CEO Gary Davis.

"The award is in recognition of your outstanding leadership support of American Indian business and economic development endeavors

tribal communities. It's a great honor to present this award to a gentleman I know who's a leader not only for his Nation, but for Indian Country in the things they done to innovate, develop to move forward under his leadership and have created opportunity across

Country with new ideas," Davis

Tiger felt it was an honor and a privilege to be selected for the

"A tribal journey to prosperity isn't obtained by one, but by the works of many," Tiger said. "I'm honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award on behalf of the 78,000-plus tribal members, our legislature; those that have served in this capacity before me."

Tiger spoke about MCN efforts to get the Nation's land back to the original owners.

"We have a strong community development in an 11-county area," Tiger said. "We're building a land base. We're in the midst of revitalization and getting some of our original property in the amount of 2,300 acres. Acre by acre, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is getting their land back."

Tiger thanked his mentors, including **MCN** former Principal Chiefs: Claude Cox, Bill Fife, Perry Beaver and his 'most loyal mentor and friend,' his wife, Frances Tiger.

April 1, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 7 "Taşahcuce" Little Spring



13th annual **Spring** Celebration held in Beggs

Children, parents learn, have fun at spring break event

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

BEGGS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Child and Youth Coalition held the 13th annual Spring Celebration March 17 at Beggs High School in Beggs.

"The Tribal Child Youth Coalition brings together a lot of different departments within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and in our communities," said MCN Youth Services Director Nancy Mason.

TCYC is an organization made up of different MCN departments and programs with a mission to increase child wellness, promote responsible parenting and to ensure that children are thriving in safe supportive and healthy environments.

"It's all about working together, getting families to do good positive things together," Mason said. "Interacting, giving them options, ideas and just connecting them with resources we have out here."

For the past 13 years, MCN departments, employees and volunteers have come together to host this event.

Spring Celebration is held to bring youth and families together and teach them about the Mvskoke culture and different MCN departments.

always scheduled around spring break. It allows a lot of the Creek Nation departments, childcare to come; Head Start to come... public schools to come and participate," said MCN Department of Health Marketing Director Geebon Gouge.

While most students enjoy their week off from school

Celebration - 4



MUSCOGEE NATION №

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE <u>ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE

gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

MCN government branches respond in wake of 'Tulsa World' article

MNN/Editorial Statement

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The following is legislation and a series of formal letters between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council and Executive Branch regarding a March 8 'Tulsa World' article entitled, 'Creek Nation chief signed secret contract with developer for BA Kialegee Casino.'



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL

Creek Capital Complex - Hwy. 75 at Loop 56 P.O. Box 158 Okmulgee, OK 74447 (918) 758-1410 Fax (918) 756-6812

Speaker: Thomas Yahola

Second Speaker: Robert Hufft

March 11, 2015

Principal Chief George Tiger Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Chief:

The Office of the Principal Chief carries with it a high standard of conduct, ethics and

During your term in office, these valued characteristics have not been de-

In a scheduled Emergency Session of the National Council conducted on March 10, 2015, a motion, with a second, was adopted with a unanimous vote and directed that this letter

The National Council respectfully requests that you resign your position as Principal Chief of the

Smarl Jehola

CC: National Council Representatives



Muscogee (CREEK) Nation

March 13, 2015

Hesci Muscogee (Creek) Citizens!

Since an inflammatory story in a recent media outlet and a National Council meeting earlier this week, I have listened with concern to questions raised by members of our Nation. I weighed thoughtfully the feedback of experts in our constitutional law, and I refrained from acting or

I learned of the article, which I believe was encouraged by a small group of citizens that includes the previous Chief and those who have publicly announced candidacy for the position to which I am currently entrusted, while I was out of town to receive the American Indian Leadership Award at the National Reservation Economic Summit. The fourth nationally recognized award presented to Muscogee (Creek) Nation during my administration.

I have an extensive and diverse record of serving my fellow citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in both an official capacity as an elected official and personally. I take my responsibility to the Nation with due solemnity, am very proud of contributions my office and staff have achieved while serving the citizens of the Nation. I feel both humbled and blessed to serve in a leadership role in improving the quality of life for all MCN citizens.

I can state categorically that I have acted at all times in accordance with our constitution and the hest interests of ALL Creek citizens

Be reminded, that due to the unique history of Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the citizens of tribal towns are also citizens of the MCN. My long record of service to Muscogee (Creek) citizens thus has necessarily overlapped to include those Creeks who also happen to be dual members of our Nation and of tribal towns.

Moreover, many Creek citizens have suffered disproportionately from economic distress and very high unemployment. Having grown up in similar conditions, I feel a call on my heart and have honored a responsibility throughout my career to do all that I could to alleviate these harsh conditions. As a businessman, a councilman and now as your Chief, I am committed t bringing jobs and economic development to our distressed localities for all Creeks and non-

Creeks alike. Under my administration, more than 800 new jobs have been created and the Permanent Fund is near \$300 million, an increase of approximately 309

This is why, while still a private citizen in 2009, I embraced an opportunity to serve in a consulting capacity to an initiative that aspired to improve the economic development and potential for jobs. In so doing, I understand now that my services and intentions may be

In both 2010 and 2011 there was no legislative action taken by the National Council regarding the Kialegee Tribal Town gaming facility. Ultimately they chose a site in Broken Arrow near ou premier gaming facility. I opposed approval of the project. As the seated Principal Chief, I acted in the best interests of the MCN and fully upheld my oath of office

Throughout my time on the council and between my election and oath of office, the business agreement I held with the Kialegee project group was not a secret. I repeat: not a secret. This item was brought to the attention of the council and was met with no objections at the time. This was a business consulting contract. The absence of any action taken by our Nation's attorney general speaks volumes for the lack of constitutional merits of this topic and the

Moving forward Lencourage citizens, including National Council members, with questions to reach out to my office staff and I will address any remaining inquiries. I have every confidence that this matter will be resolved when cooler heads prevail, all the facts are brought to light and the untruths or misinterpretations are shown to be what they truly are. My staff and I are eager to move past the unproductive political squabbling and focus on the important business of

In closing, I want to personally thank many of you for your words of encouragement and prayers for comfort. That is the Mvskoke Way!



The facts surrounding this topic are -

- · My biggest concern and first response to the inflammatory story in a recent media outlet is to the
- My business agreement with a Kialegee business client was never a secret. The agreement was brought to the attention of National Council members in 2010 and in 2012 upon being elected Chief, and at both times the National Council did not consider it an issue or concern. It was agreed that it was a private business agreement.
- I was not an official member of the National Council, according to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, until I was sworn into office.
- I took the oath for the office of tribal councilor on January 2, 2010. "The term of office shall begin at the first meeting of the National Council following the first day of January and the oath of office shall be taken at the first meeting," according to MCN Constitution Article VI Section 3
- My consulting business agreement for the Kialegee project terminated when I took the oath of office for National Council member January 2, 2010. I did not take project fees after that date. Former business associates did provide campaign donations. The National Council hastily called an emergency meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 the same day
- that I was out of state receiving the award on behalf of the MCN, our National Council and all our tribal To be clear: two of those calling for my resignation have also announced their intentions to run for
- The council has called for an NCR next week. I have every confidence that the merits of this activity will

There is a lot of disinformation circulating, including -

- Prior to my involvement, the developer was in discussion with other Tribal Towns regarding a possible casino project. At the time the agreement was signed no site had been identified
- A recent story falsely reported that I testified in court on behalf of Kialegee project supporters. I never testified. I came to the proceedings to observe.
- There is a difference between payments for services and campaign contributions. I understand my opponents do not like this distinction, but it is factual.
- A recent timeline crafted by the press suggests I was responsible for a veto on inaccurate merits. The veto was based upon timing and absence due to travel and after a vote of the National Council as a
- A recent media story falsely printed more statements. The story purports that the lender's terms for our Nation's River Spirit Casino forbids opening of another casino in the area. This is 100 percent false per our fully executed loan agreement.



CLASSIFICATION: #16. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL DECLARING NO CONFIDENCE IN GEORGE TIGER TO SERVE IN THE CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Be it resolved by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

WHEREAS, George Tiger is presently the Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and

WHEREAS, he was sworn in as Chief to faithfully execute the Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and to uphold the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and all laws enacted by the National Council; and

WHEREAS, certain information regarding many questionable actions of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have recently come to light that are considered unethical and/or illegal according to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WHEREAS, the following actions have caused concern and are relevant to the integrity of the Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

- Based upon information received by the National Council, Principal Chief George Tiger entered into and was party to a consulting agreement signed after the conclusion of the 2009 General Election in November 2009 wherein he agreed to provide assistance to Golden Canyon Partners, LLC to secure a ground lease that would allow the Kialegee Tribal Town to conduct gaming in Broken Arrow and within the exterior boundaries of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- In addition to monthly consulting fees, the consulting agreement between Principal Chief Tiger and Golden Canyon Partners, LLC contained provisions wherein Principal Chief Tiger would have received large bonus payments and ownership interests in the company upon successful completion of certain project milestones.
- Based upon information received by the National Council, representatives of Golden Canyon Partners, LLC paid sums of money to Principal Chief Tiger prior to the 2009 election and then after his election to the National Council, that were labeled as "loans" or "campaign donations" and such payments occurred during his tenure upon the National Council.
- At no time, prior to his election to the National Council or during his service as a National Council Representative, did Principal Chief Tiger disclose the consulting agreement to representatives of the Nation or the
- At no time, prior to his election to the Office of the Principal Chief or during his current tenure as Principal Chief, did Principal Chief Tiger disclose the consulting agreement to representatives of the Nation or the National
- During his tenure as Principal Chief, the executive branch has fostered an environment of aggressiveness and hostility towards women. Principal Chief Tiger and some members of his executive cabinet have blatantly failed to protect our employees against sexual aggression and
- Prior to the indictment of former Second Chief Roger Barnett, the National Council authorized a forensic audit to review the actions of the Second Chief and Principal Chief Tiger's entire administration. While the forensic audit is still ongoing, some preliminary findings show a pattern by the administration of unauthorized and wasteful spending, in addition to roadblocks being presented to the firm hired by the National Council to conduct the forensic audit. Furthermore, the forensic audit has uncovered the specific actions and conduct of Principal Chief Tiger and the Office of the Controller (or lack thereof) that permitted former Second Chief Roger Barnett to embezzle thousands and thousands of tribal funds
- During his tenure as Principal Chief, he engaged in such unauthorized practices such as demanding records of the Nation's non-gaming economic enterprises and utilizing the presence of the Nation's Lighthorse to demand and intimidate the entity into handing records over despite the independent nature of the economic enterprises
- During his tenure as Principal Chief, he engaged in intimidation directed towards management level human resources staff involving employee affairs of the Nation's gaming enterprises including but not limited to participating in human resource conducted employee hearings. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Council declares, in light of the foregoing reasons, that it has no confidence in George Tiger serving in the capacity of Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and unconditionally requests his resignation from the Office of the Principal Chief immediately, so the Nation can start to heal after the recent turmoil this administration has caused.



Muscogee (CREEK) Nation

March 20, 2015

My fellow Muscogee Citizens, I want to respond to you my position on recent actions taken by the National Council regarding my elected role as your Principal Chief, and as the result of the recent newspaper article which is serving as a basis for these actions and which has been publicly acknowledged by Speaker

As Principal Chief of this Great Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I have always adhered to the unwavering principles and requirements in our Constitution and in the Creek Nation Code of Laws that govern our Nation. Even in times of political turmoil and controversy, it is the solidarity of our Tribal laws that we must continue to recognize and uphold, especially during times when some current National Council members seek to campaign for higher office in our Nation.

Because of this, I find it very troubling and unfortunate that the National Council met last night during an Emergency Session to consider and vote on a National Council Resolution (NCR) declaring "no confidence" in me serving as your Chief and to seek my immediate resignation. Under the Nation's laws, the Speaker and the National Council members fail to understand that a National Council Resolution is limited to matters relating to the internal operations of the National Council. The NCR is not permitted under our laws and policy to be a political nearborn for the NCR is not permitted under our laws and policy to be a political platform for the National Council to speak on Executive Branch matters. This flawed process only seeks to further the interests of those on the Council who have already publicly declared they are seeking to run for the Office of the Principal Chief.

Another serious concern of this action by the National Council raises significant constitutional concerns regarding the impeachment process that is outlined in our Tribal Constitution and our Code of Laws. It is no secret that citizens have already filed a petition for signatures to remove me as Principal Chief, but that is only the beginning of the process. If the required number of signatures of Tribal Citizens are obtained on the petition and validated under our laws, an impeachment trial is constitutionally required to be held before a fair and impartial National Council who will then hear and consider evidence in a trial under rules of procedure. Most importantly, the impeachment process recognizes and requires my rights to due

process and to respond to the allegations and to present evidence in my own defense during a formal trial.

With the passage of the National Council Resolution, which includes certain "findings" in support of my resignation before any trial has been set or evidence presented from both sides, I fear the National Council has now created a constitutional crisis that has violated my rights under the American Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, which by the way has been adopted by this Nation. This has further tainted the Citizens' right to a fair and impartial removal process as required $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$ under our laws. No court in this country would seat a jury with twelve individuals who have already publicly declared a defendant's guilt before a trial has even started. Our Constitution and Code of Laws require a fair and impartial process, so these are serious legal issues that must be considered during the course of this proposed removal process.

Again, I categorically deny any and all allegations of wrongdoing under our laws and under my oath to serve as your Principal Chief. Although this has always seemed to be the historical political pattern, I will not let these distractions keep me from continuing to do my duty to serve as your Principal Chief and to do my best to always advance the best interests of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in a mature

We must not allow petty politics to be an obstacle to the vision of this administration. I ask the citizens to pray for all elected officials, so we may in unity get back to the normalcy of serving the people that elected us.

Overcoming adversity strengthens us, and unity solidifies us.



Fiddle dance exhibited during American Indian Festival of Words



The Muscogee (Creek) Cultural Center and Archives coordinated a fiddle dance demonstration March 7, during the American Indian Festival of Words in Tulsa. Okla.

New audience exposed to Mvskoke culture

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives hosted a fiddle dance demonstration March 7 during the American Indian Festival of Words hosted by the Tulsa City-County Library's American Indian Resource Center at the Hardesty Regional Library in Tulsa.

The tradition began in the MCN homelands through influence from the Irish and Scottish cultures. The dances were a social gathering held predominately in the winter months after the end of Mvskoke stompdance season.

The musicians consisted of a fiddler and a stick player, who used drumsticks and the back of a wooden chair to provide the and more.

"It is important to embrace every aspect of our Muscogee (Creek) culture, from our ceremonial and church activities, to our timeless social gatherings such as the fiddle dance," CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen James Smith instructed the volunteer audience members how to do the fiddle dance.

Smith said he used to attend fiddle dances as a child in Okfuskee County then and again when he married in the '70s.

Fiddle dances were widely attended from the 1800s up to the 1970s.

According to AIRC Coordinator and planner of the festival Teresa Runnels, the library is interested in bringing different things to the public to help educate and perpetuate culture.

"Many people have a view that in the Indian community, that there's only one or two types of dance, when we know in realty there's many types of dances," Runnels said. "If we can bring some of those types of dances to the library to show the larger community this is alive and well, we think that just broadens everyone's perspectives on Indians."

The event also included: food concessions, a canoe exhibit, genealogy tours and booths from Muscogee (Creek) artist Michel Laudermilk, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole artist Tom Barnett

TREATY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

going and still exist. At one time, there were 44 tribal grounds that came across the Trail of Tears and

Nation to Nation Treaties Harjo addressed the delegation directly following the installation.

According to Harjo who recently received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Treaty of New York annulled any treaties and agreements previously made between the Muscogee Confederacy and Spain. Thus, for the safety of the Muscogee (Creek) delegates, the treaty had to remain a secret until they returned home from signing the document.

"It took several weeks...That means that everyone in the Senate and all their staff, the president and all his men, the state department and all their employees or the top ones, all the Muscogee delegates and who knows who else kept this secret a secret," Harjo said. "Because the Muscogee peoples could have been going to war with Spain or have a trade war with Spain, they didn't know how Spain would react."

Ultimately, Spain withdrew from lands that eventually became part of the U.S. as well as ceased all trade with the MCN government.

Harjo said she wanted the treaty to be shown not just because of the terms 'peace' and 'friendship forever.'

Within the treaty, it was outlined that anyone entering Muscogee (Creek) territory was subject to the jurisdiction of the MCN government.

"The jurisdiction and the there are only 16 left," Deere said. territorial jurisdiction for all Muscogee lands is at the heart Contributor and Muscogee of this," Harjo said. "It doesn't (Creek) descendant Suzanne mean this treaty was canceled with subsequent treaties. It means that this treaty is still alive and viable and should be treated that way except where it was expressly overturned by subsequent treaties."

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said that the treaty installation was a historic moment because it affirms the long relationship MCN has had with the U.S.

Harjo said she does not believe the Treaty of New York was the beginning of the end for the Myskoke way of life.

"This [Treaty of New York] is the witness and the evidence of what the two Nations wanted to make of each other and wanted to make together and how they wanted to control Georgia, which was out of control and how they both wanted to control Spain," Harjo said.

Arbeka Ceremonial Ground Mekko Raymond Meely commented on the historical significance of MCN as it exists

"[If] people back then could see us now; we are living proof that we are still here," Meely said.

Giles said that having the active ceremonial ground leaders and descendants of the original treaty signors is an important part of remembering MCN history and continuing the legacy of our ancestors.

FVPP hosts event to raise dating violence awareness



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program Director Shawn Partridge introduces the guest speaker at the Teen Dating Violence Awareness event March 10 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen shares survival story

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Parents and youth packed the room March 10 to hear the story of one young girl at the Teen Dating Violence Awareness event hosted by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee.

"She's an amazing young woman that has been sharing her story to help other teens and young people learn about abusive and unhealthy behaviors," FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said.

The crowd traveled back in time two and a half years through the eyes of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Autaum Snyder to her perilous relationship, through a deadly scenario that could have also had a tragic ending.

Autaum recounted the day when her high school relationship turned sour.

The relationship had reached a point where she did not feel safe and secure, so Autaum wrote a breakup letter and gave it to her boyfriend Sammy Clark on Sept.

He decided they were going to go to dinner to discuss the relationship, and after persistently not taking 'no,' for an answer; Autaum relented.

Upon returning home to Haskell, Okla., the couple began to argue and Clark started destroying Autaum's photos. The argument turned physical.

She grabbed her things and walked to her car to leave, but felt as if someone was watching

"I see that he has a gun," Autaum said. "I thought that he had it pointed out at the woods."

Clark fired 10 shots from a .22-caliber rifle at Autaum. He walked to her and began punching her in the face.

"I run my hand across my stomach and I feel the bullet holes," Autaum said.

Clark carried her to his truck along with the weapon.

Autaum feared that Clark would take her to the woods where no one would find her to kill her and then himself.

He took her to the police station and forced her to walk herself to the door.

"I'm banging on the door and it's locked," Autaum said. "I sat down... and I saw a car going down Main Street and I'm thinking I'm this close to help and I can't even get it."

Clark carried her back to the vehicle and asked where he needed to go. He refused to take Autaum anywhere but the hospital in Muskogee, Okla., which was 21 miles away.

Autaum was unable to walk to the emergency room at the hospital, so Clark carried her in and asked for help.

He laid her down on the gurney and whispered to her to lie about what happened.

Autaum underwent multiple surgeries and spent five weeks in the hospital. Her kidneys and colon are damaged, and her gallbladder was destroyed. She still has eight bullets lodged inside her body.

For a full account of Autaum Snyder's story, read the 'Muscogee Nation News' coverage at: www.mcn-nsn.gov/Pages/ MNN/pdf/2014/feb012014.

After the presentation, FVPP representatives were available for a question and answer ses-

"Native people experience the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence when compared to any other group," Partridge said.

For more information about the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program, call the department at: 918-732-7869.

CRD hosts quarterly session for communities



Photo submission

Holdenville Indian Community Chairman David Jimboy received a community service award March 7 during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department Community Research and Development quarterly session.

Citizens recognized for contributions

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Community Research and Development held a quarterly session March 7 at the Wetumka Indian Community Center in Wetumka, Okla. The event provided important updates and information regarding legislation, an overview of financial and business procedures and training.

According to CRD Director Floyd Jones, around 30 representatives from MCN communities attended the session.

"Doors are beginning to open, so hopefully as we do more we'll have more participation," Jones said. "We're here to help as opposed to dictating."

The department distributed information and answered questions regarding the MCN

Development Community Block Grant, which communities can apply for. The deadline for the CDBG grant is March 31.

MCN Assistant Attorney General JoEtta Toppah also provided a presentation regarding amendments to MCN Code Annotated Title 11, which governs communities.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 15-008, which authorizes chartered communities to use tribal lands and buildings for the purpose of furthering operations and community development without a facility use agreement.

MCN Risk Management Manager Phil Booker and Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols discussed property insurance and analyzing risk at the community level.

MCN Youth Services Director Nancy Mason provided information on the new programs targeting youth.

Grand Canyon University representative Daisha Bedgett discussed adult education.

Jones believes that it is important to have presenters other than CRD so that communities can ask questions and get information that will benefit the community as a whole.

"I think it's educational,"

CRD also recognized community members for their contributions to their respective communities.

Recipients included: Holdenville Indian Community Chairman David Jimboy, Dewar Indian Community Chairperson Glenn Jones, Twin Hills Indian Community Chairperson Levi On-The-Hill, Okemah Indian Community representative Eugenia Tiger and THIC representative Gary Hudgens.

"I thought it was important... that it was time and it was just a good outreach to the communities to start recognizing people that have sustained their communities and have been doing it for quite some time," Jones said.

Jones said that the individuals were recognized because many times their work has gone unnoticed.

He expects the next quarterly meeting to be held in July and for it to cover aspects of grant applications.

CRD requested communities to contact the department if they wish to nominate an individual for recognition at the next quarterly session.

For more information about MCN Community Research and Development, contact the department at: 918-732-7963.

Eufaula Dormitory art show promotes creativity, expression



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Wellness Program and Eufaula Dormitory hosted the 'Empowerment in Environment: Strength Within' art show March 11 at the Eufaula Dormitory campus in Eufaula, Okla.

Finding strength through art

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

EUFAULA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Wellness Program and Eufaula Dormitory hosted its annual art show March 11 at the Eufaula Dormitory campus in Eufaula.

Youth Wellness provides prevention education and wellness services to students and also sponsored all of the art supplies for the project.

"It is to promote the artistic talents of our Eufaula Boarding School students, let them express themselves on learning topics that we've been learning and discussing throughout the school year," said Youth and Wellness Counselor Tricia Alexander.

Since the art show started five years ago, there has been a theme each year for the students to go by.

This year the theme was, Empowerment in Environment: Strength Within.

Due to the subject matter, the project was coordinated and supervised by Eufaula Dormitory Licensed Art Therapist Gayla Norman.

"It's not a typical art show. The students have a directive," Norman said. "It's unique artwork, all with a complete collective thought for the whole dorm."

The focus of the artwork was Alexander said.

for students to express emotions that demonstrate strength in their surroundings, empowerment in their community or tribal settings or to embrace the strong tradition of the Eufaula Boarding School.

"It's about where each student finds their strength, whether it's family, a community, the boarding school, traditional values or their friends," Alexander said.

Eufaula Dormitory 1st-12th grade students displayed their creation through an acrylic and canvas medium.

"All of the artwork is freehanded. They aren't allowed to use any type of rulers or anything like that," Norman said.

The students who wish to sell the artwork were placed into a silent action and the proceeds will go to the students.

Alumni and the general public were invited to attend.

The Eufaula Dormitory has history dating back to 1847 and provides residential care for nine months of the year while students attend Eufaula Public Schools.

Students are required to be citizens of a federally recognized tribe and facility enrollment is typically 80-90 students annually.

"I wanted to thank the community for coming out, especially the tribe. With all the different departments with the tribe; the tribal college coming out and supporting the students with resources letting them know what is available to them,"

CELEBRATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Attendees of the 13th annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Spring Celebration themed, 'Youth Celebrating Traditions,' were taught Mvskoke culture through stickball, archery, storytelling and stompdance demonstrations.

other students continue to learn while on their spring break.

"I believe that our youth, our greatest natural resource," Gouge said. "What better thing to do than invest in our young people especially when it come to culture, education."

The theme for this year's event was 'Youth Celebrating Traditions,' and attendees were taught Mvskoke culture through stickball, archery, storytelling and stompdance demonstrations.

"The theme of 'Youth Cele- 549-2557.

through leisurely activities, brating Traditions' will be very evident in the activities at this event," Mason said.

Attendees were able to conno matter what they are, are nect with tribal resources and participate in activities such as face painting and playing on inflatables.

> The Preston jump road team also performed for the event.

> The event was free, open to the public, provided a traditional and non-traditional lunch and gave away door prizes to children under 18.

> For more information, contact Youth Services at: 918-



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MCN signs agreement with local funeral homes



MNN/Chelsie Rich Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger signs an agreement with local funeral homes to assist citizens in the cost of funeral arrangements.

Contract to help with costs for citizens

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation signed agreements with local funeral homes throughout the MCN jurisdiction March 18 at the MCN Executive Building on the Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The contract provides citizens with a traditional funeral package through the MCN Social Services Tribal Burial Program that covers the costs of a typical funeral arrangement including a casket and memorial package as well as professional services such as embalming.

"This is to help with families who have no other resources to help with funeral cost," Social Services Director ShaRee Scott said. "We want to help our citizens with an affordable funeral during their time of loss."

As of the signing, over 15 funeral homes within the MCN have made such an agreement with the tribe.

Brent Matherly, owner of Hutchins-Maples Matherly Funeral Home in Bristow, Okla., spoke about how this agreement is going to help the families during the difficult time.

"The Creek Nation has always been great to work with when it comes to the situations where families have to prepare for funerals," Matherly said. "This should be very comforting for the family to know that the cost is taken care of and to not have the worry or stress of finding extra funds."

Scott said they are looking to do the same with more funeral homes.

"Being how we cover such a large area, we want to make sure that we have funeral homes in agreement with us throughout our jurisdiction so we can make it easier for our citizens," Scott said.

For more information on the MCN Tribal Burial Program and the new agreement call: 918-549-2445.

Citizen elected as chamber of commerce president



Muscogee (Creek) citizen William Lowe was elected president of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma for 2016.

MCN director to head AICCO

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department Director William Lowe recently added another title.

Lowe was elected 2016 president of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma.

According to Lowe, AICCO is a non-profit that consists of business enterprises and tribal

lead-

ers. The

organi-

zation

works

"THAT IS OUR FOCUS. TO HELP THE NATIVE OWNED BUSINESSES GET THEIR chamber is NAME OUT TO THE PUBLIC."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN WILLIAM LOWE

with Native-owned businesses to help them network and succeed.

"That is our focus; to help the Native-owned businesses get their name out to the public," Lowe said.

Lowe currently serves as one of two AICCO vice-presidents

The management or board of the AICCO, elect their officers a year in advance for a particular reason so the new officers can observe their predecessor in order to have a better understanding of the position when

their term begins.

have responsibilities already being second in command but being the newly elected president; I get to meet with the president that is already in office now to see how they handle everything," Lowe said. "It is pretty much a year to groom tor the upcoming position.

"The vice-president does

As stated by Lowe, a majority of the duties as president of the AICCO are having signature authority, leading all meetings and setting the overall strategy for that term. Terms are limited to three years.

"We have several meetings with great tribal leaders that gets the strategy going and putting it to work," Lowe said. "The president will oversee and orchestrate the entire chamber. To me, it is a lot more than signature authority."

Lowe said AICCO is doing great right now and expects it to keep getting better and improving.

"We held our own conference last year and we are going to continue to do that," Lowe

"The

growing and

we want to more get people and businesses involved."

Lowe stressed that everyone in the chamber, the officers and board members, volunteer their time to make AICCO successful.

"This is not an eight to five job," Lowe said. "We volunteer our time to strategize and see what we can do to not only make our chamber successful, but these leaders and businesses also. It is a lot of hard work but our members do it and we all have the same goals to make everything prosperous and better for everyone involved."

Myskoke Language Preservation Program puzzle

Hobbies

YVKVPET - Go for a Walk **NAK HAHICETV - Make things VHORETV** - Sew

ENA NEKEYACETV - Exercise

HOTOPETV - Bake

NAK VHAYETV - Take Pictures

NAK KVLVFETV - Carve Things

VTARKV KVWVPETV - Lift Weights

HOCCIKVTELICETV - Do Word Puzzles

NAK VTELOYETV - Collect Things

TAKFVLVLVKE SEMVHAYETV -**Practice Darts**

POKKO-SECETV SEMVHAYETV -**Practice Pool**

FAKKE-TVLASWE SAYETV -

Make Pottery COKV-AHKOPVNKV -

Play Cards

ESTE-EMVKERRV -

Do Magic Tricks

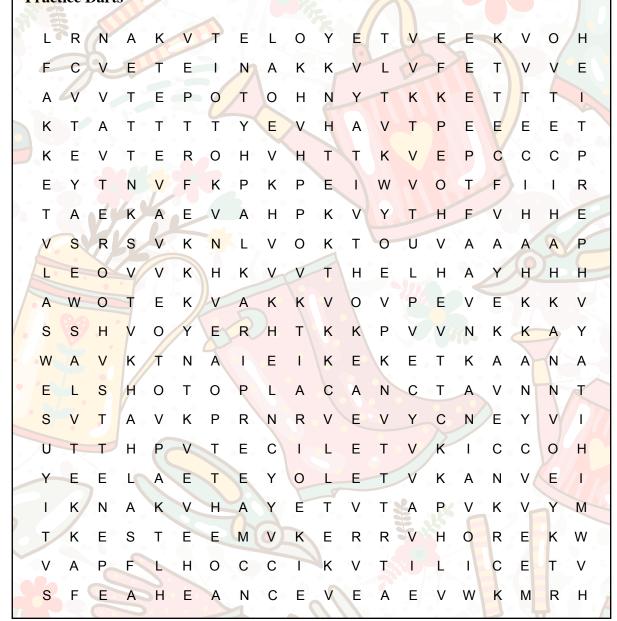
SETEMPONAHOKV EMPUNVYETV -

Talk on the Phone

NAK HAHICETV -**Build Things**

CVPOFUCE OHHOTOTKETV -

Do Some Gardening



Tristate tribal organization holds meeting in MCN jurisdiction



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Oklahoma State Rep. and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak spoke during the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas meeting held March 6 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa, Okla.

Leadership touts strength through communication

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Over 25 tribes met at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tulsa March 6 for a meeting of the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

UINOKT is an organization that seeks to unite all tribes throughout the states of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. Recently the organization has been revitalized through the shared interests of these tribes.

hosted the meeting.

"There has been a long history with our Nation and this organization," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "Originally, it was called the, 'United Indian Nations of Oklahoma.' We felt like we needed a statewide organization with all tribes."

According to Tiger, the addition of Kansas and Texas tribes solidified the organization as it exists today.

"We are real pleased to be the host of this meeting," Tiger said. "It has open up a lot of doors between tribal governments more so than ever."

During the meeting, Okla-The Muscogee (Creek) Nation homa State Rep. and MCN Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak gave an update on an ongoing water rights issue for the state.

According to McPeak, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers proposed expansion of federal government jurisdiction over these rights would place significant burdens on individual tribal members and businesses through increased regulatory permit requirements.

"Water is a part of our life cycle when it comes to all of our Nations," McPeak said. "When the people in Washington, D.C., try to expand their rules and regulations on everyone, it hurts a lot of the tribes. They can be overbearing."

McPeak feels that UINOKT can lead the charge to stop the proposed changes.

Tiger feels that the tribes within UINOKT are formidable as a

"With all these tribes coming together, no matter how big or small, all have the same issues," Tiger said. "I believe it is important to show a strong unified front when types of concerns such as housing, education and gaming are brought up."

Chairman of both the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and UINOKT Wallace Coffey, mirrored Tiger's sentiments.

"If we all come together, there is no telling what we can accomplish," Coffey said. "We have always been strong. Coming together will make us stronger and we can feed off of our strengths and help turn any weaknesses that we have into strengths."



3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net





ALBERT CARDOZA



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Albert M. Cardoza was born in 1924 in Manteca, Calif., and was the only child of Manual and Leopolina Cardoza. His mother and father came to this country from the Azores.

Albert served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was among those that evacuated prisoners at the Dachau Concentration Camp. Albert was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in December 1945.

Following his military discharge, he became employed by Sheldon Oil Company and later the Tidewater Associated Oil Company. Albert began his law enforcement career with Solano County Sheriff's Office in August 1949.

In 1970, he was elected to the office of sheriff where he served six, four-year terms in all. Albert served as president of the California State Sheriff's Association for two terms. He completed his career with 45 years of dedicated service to Solano County as a peace officer.

After he retired in 1994, he and his wife Reba (nee, Northcutt) became parents the second time around by assuming legal guardianship of Reba's five granddaughters, ages eight-16.

Albert is survived by his: wife, Reba (nee, Northcutt); son, Dana, stepson, Tharen and five grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren.

MARJORIE CHALAKEE



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Marjorie 'Margie' Ann Chalakee, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away March 7 at the age of 63. She was born May 13, 1951 to Webster and Martha Bird-Chalakee in Okmulgee. She was a member of the Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee where she was very involved in events and enjoyed singing Creek Hymns. Margie enjoyed going to casinos, playing bingo, making scarves and beadwork but most of all, she loved spending time with her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her: parents, Webster and Martha Chalakee; brothers, Tom Mix Chalakee, William 'Bunky' Chalakee and Billy W. Chalakee; two babies; baby sister, Mary Jane Chalakee and granddaughter, Diamond Coleman.

Survivors include her: children, Jonah Hutke Fleener, Sr. and Gina Fleener both of Okmulgee; adopted daughter, La-Donna Pickup of Okmulgee;

OBITUARIES



sisters, Barbara Davis of Fredericksburg, Va., Thelma Chalakee-Harjo of Albuquerque, N.M., Virginia Kolakowski of Tulsa, Okla., Stella Harjo of Tulsa, Sharon Chalakee and husband, Ray Harjo of Okmulgee and Donna Bear of Lawton, Okla.; grandchildren, Jonah Hutke Fleener Jr., Savanna Mae Fleener, Lillie Nicole Fleener, Aniyah Pickup, Daelyn Pickup and Chrisslyn LeBlanc; plus one grandson on the way; a special niece, Wilma Chalakee and numerous other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held March 12 at the Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service, 220 S. Alabama Ave. Okmulgee, OK 918-756-

Wake Services were held March 12 at Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held March 13 at the Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Mitch Taylor officiating. Burial followed the service at the Salt Creek Cemetery in Wilson, Okla.

Pallbearers were: Rayne Harjo, Ryan Harjo, Kelly Harjo, Jeff Chalakee, Jeremy Kolakowski, Dustin Kolakowski, Billy Kolakowski and Mike Jimboy.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Jonah Fleener Sr., Jonah Fleener Jr., Eric Shields Jr., Daelyn Pickup, Corey Pickup Sr., Corey Pickup Jr., Thomas Pickup, Dallis Kolakowski, Hayden Kolakowski and Harlan Jimerson.

Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service. Family and Friends may view the obituary and send condolences online at: www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

HOUSTON HICKS



HENRYETTA, Okla. — Houston Hicks, a longtime resident of rural Henryetta passed away March 10, 2015 in Tulsa at the age of 88. He was born Nov. 7, 1926 in Salem, Okla., to Joe Hicks and Ella (Coker) Hicks.

Houston married Eliza Mae Freeman on Christmas Eve and five children were born to this union. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict serving with the U.S. Army. He worked for many years as a hydraulic mechanic at Tinker Air Force Base and was a lifetime member of Arbeka Assembly Grounds.

He is preceded in death by his: wife, Eliza Mae Hicks; sons, James Hicks and Tim Hicks; brothers, Henry Hicks, Homer Hicks and George Hicks, as well as an infant sister.

He is survived by: children, Angela Chavez of Phoenix, Robert Hicks and wife, Sarah of Dewar, Okla., Carol Muniz and husband, Thomas of Glenpool, Okla., Louis Hicks and wife Gloria of Okmulgee, Okla.; 16 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; brother, Red Hicks of Beggs, Okla., and a host of friends and other relatives.

Pallbearers were: Mr. Hick's grandsons, Buddy Hicks, Jason Hicks, Christopher Muniz, Jerad Hicks, Jeremiah Hicks, Joe Hicks, Billy Beets and Justin Hicks.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Ty Hicks, Gary Hicks, Johnny Hicks, Watie Fixico, Joe Sulphur, Tom Muniz, Michael Owens, Frank Graffee, Mr. Hick's greatgrandchildren and members of the Arbeka Ceremonial Ground.

Funeral Services are scheduled for March 14 at Dewar First Baptist Church with Rev. John Wayne Tulsa, Rev. Pat Freeman and Rev. Dave Long officiating. Interment will follow in New Sonora Cemetery under direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

An online guestbook is available at: www.integrityfuner-alservice.com.

JOHN DAVID KING



NEWKIRK, Okla. — Longtime Newkirk resident John David King, 82, died peacefully at his home Feb. 20, 2015 with his family at his side.

The son of James Dillard and Mamie Fife King, John David was born May 6, 1932 in rural Okfuskee County near Dustin, Okla. His Creek name was ekvlane, but he was known by his family and friends as Kahlon.

John David 'ekvlane' was a direct descendant of Sandy, Louisa and Mamie Fife. After Mamie died, his uncle, Jim Fife, became his guardian and he and his siblings grew up in the Fife home with cousins, Bill, Carole, Sharon, Phyllis, Sandy, Tim, Brian and Robin.

He was educated at Graham Public School in Dustin, Euchee Boarding School for Indians in Sapulpa, Okla., Chilocco Indian School (Class of 1952), Oklahoma A&M and the Federal Police Academy in Brigham City, Utah, where he graduated at the top of his class.

John David and Claudine Williford were married Oct. 18, 1952 in Weleetka, Okla. They were married 62 wonderful years and spent their first four years on the Chilocco campus where John David was employed. After eight years in Stillwater, Okla., they settled in Newkirk, where they raised five children.

Together, they made their home a secure and supportive place for their children and a welcoming place for family and friends where many happy memories were made. We will miss his warmth and humor and how he watched over the family. He was very accepting of all and took a genuine interest in everyone he met. John David was told

by many that he made a great difference in their lives.

During his college years in Stillwater, Okla., John David worked for the Willis Mfg. Co., and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a watershed flow tech. He was then employed at Chilocco Indian School for 22 years, first in boys guidance and later as head of security. As a good Samaritan, he once aided in saving the life of a fellow law enforcement officer in Tulsa, Okla.

During his years of employment at Chilocco, he guided and positively influenced many a student. The students described him as a fair and caring guidance counselor. John and Claudine considered some of these students a part of their family and they also maintained lifelong friendships with many others.

After Chilocco closed in 1980, he worked for 15 years at Conoco Oil Company in Ponca City, Okla., as a senior research technician in the Petroleum Products Division until his retirement Jan. 1, 1995.

The military was a very important part of his life. John David served his country in the military 25 years, three months, and five days-first as a member of the Chilocco C (Charlie) Company, 279th Infantry, 45th Division, which was activated during the Korean Conflict. During his years of enlistment, he served in infantry and combat engineering units. At the time of his retirement in 1979, he was in the 120th Engineers, 45th Division holding the rank of chief warrant officer (WO2).

He was a family man that loved outdoors, hunting and fishing. John David enjoyed trips to fish in Alaska, hunt elk in Colorado and deer and pheasant in Kansas and Oklahoma. These trips with family and his beloved dog Smoky and family friend Merlin Kennedy were some highlights of his outdoor life.

In retirement, he and Claudine enjoyed travel in their fifth wheel camper beginning with a very special trip to Alaska. They enjoyed 15 years of travel over much of the country. They also continued to enjoy their special connections with their Chilocco family at the annual gatherings. John David was very proud of each of his five children and their accomplishments. He also cherished the time spent with his grandchildren. His joy was his family.

He was a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bear Clan, Thlewarle Indian Baptist Church near Dustin, Newkirk Main Street, Chilocco National Alumni Association, Oklahoma Rifle Assn, the Ponca City Rifle and Pistol Club and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. In 2012, John David received a National Citizenship Award from the Chilocco National Alumni Association. He will be inducted into the Chilocco Hall of Fame in May

John David is survived by his: wife, Claudine of 62 years; their children, Darrell and his wife, Linda of Newalla, Okla., Damon and his wife, Kathy of Fulshear, Texas, Theron and his wife, Sara of Ponca City, Laura Stuemky

and her husband, James of Del Norte, Colo., Jonathan and his wife, Carly of Latham, Ill.; sister, Evelyn King Brogdon of Ramona, Okla.; grandchildren, Lindsey Warner and husband Scott, Thomas Stuemky and wife, Taylor, Alison Foster and husband, Hank, Kyle, Lauren and Adam King; step-grandchildren, Matthew and Michael Reilly, Meghan Reilly Doyle and husband, Eric, Lance Griffith and wife, Taunya, Shawn Griffith and husband, John Vester, Olivia and Christian Jockisch and several great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, brothers Harold, Milford and Dan Lincoln and sister, Ellen.

Funeral services were held Feb. 25 in the First Baptist Church of Newkirk with the Rev. Rex Roberts officiating. Interment followed in the Newkirk Cemetery with Military Honors provided by the MCN Honor Guard. Miller-Stahl Funeral Service was in charge of arrangements.

Grandsons serving as casket bearers were: Thomas Stuemky, Hank Foster, Scott Warner, Jody VanAusdall, Bill Fife and Jeff Fife.

The family requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made in John David King's name to Hospice of North Central Oklahoma, 445 Fairview Ave., Ponca City OK 74601-1923.

DEANNA MERCADO



ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Long time Alaskan Deanna Mercado, age 60, passed away Sept. 23, 2014 at the Alaska Native Medical Center while surrounded by family. She was born Aug. 5, 1954 to Raydean and Donna Robison in Watson-ville, Calif. She graduated from Watsonville High School and attended cosmetology college.

She is the granddaughter of the late Josephus Robinson of Weleetka, Okla., and a descendant of Col. William R. Robin-

She moved to Alaska with her parents and brothers at age 15. She worked as an apartment manager in Anchorage and as a bookkeeper for a trucking business for many years.

In her free time, she loved to garden, knit, collect salt and pepper shakers from around the world, watch old western movies but especially enjoyed her time with family and friends. She was always thinking of her loved ones and never forgot a birthday or holiday.

She will be dearly missed, loved eternally and will live on in our hearts forever.

She is survived by her: parents, Raydean and Donna Robison; significant other, Randy Taylor; son, Elmer Mercado-Robison; daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and Roy LeBlanc; daughter, Shawna Rodgers; brother and sister-in-law, Rick and Lori Robison; brother, Daryl Robison; granddaughters, Lianna Jones and Anjelus Mercado-Robison;

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MERCADO CONT.

nephews, Darick and Ryan Robison; nieces, Jesi and Jolie Robison as well as extended family and friends across the country.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

BETTY MOUSER



SHAWNEE, Okla. — Betty Jo Mouser passed away March 3, 2015 in Shawnee at the age of 82.

Betty was born April 29, 1932 at home in Dustin, Okla., to Taylor and Dollie Fife.

Betty married J.C. Mouser March 19, 1949 in Van Buren, Ark. Betty and J.C. moved to Tulsa in 1961. While living in Tulsa, Betty was a devoted wife and loving mother all while running a highly successful culinary gift shop.

Betty and J.C. had two daughters, Sandra and Denette and remained in Tulsa until 1975 when they returned to Dustin, Okla., where they purchased a farm near Graham School.

Betty was a proud member of the Muscogee (Creek Nation) where her daughter Sandra served the Nation as director of Behavioral Health Services and her daughter Denette served as chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Betty was raised on the family farm north of Dustin with her and Loretta.

A younger sister, Marilyn, died in infancy.

Betty attended church with her family at Thewarle Indian Baptist Church where her father was a deacon.

Upon her mother's passing, Betty and J.C. moved into her childhood home and she lived there until 2013 when she moved to a memory care home in Shawnee.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents and younger sis-

ter. She is survived by her: husband of 66 years, J.C.; daughters, Sandra Choney and husband Chuck, of Shawnee and Denette Mouser, of Bentonville, Ark.; sisters, Helen Jojola of Albuquerque, N.M., Geraldine Wolf of Sand Springs, Okla., and Loretta Alwert and husband, Robert of Enid, Okla.; brother-in-law, Hoyle Mouser and wife, Lynn, of Wetumka, Okla., sister-in-law, LaRue Mahoney of McAlester, Okla; granddaughters, Jennifer Hopkins, Alysia Jones and Brooke Kirchner; great-grandchildren, Taylor Edmonds, Mackenzie Johnson, Cainan Nelson, Jordan White, Tre Davis, Jacob Jones and Kennedy Kirchner, greatgreat granddaughter, Chesney Edmonds along with numerous loving cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Her passing is a great loss for family and friends alike. We will miss her.

A viewing was held March 6 at Integrity Funeral Service.

A funeral was scheduled for March 7 at Integrity Chapel, 410 East Trudgeon St., Henryetta, OK, with Rev. Eugene Whitlow, officiating.

Services were under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

MARY ANN SOLORZANO



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Marv Ann Solorzano, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away March 5, 2015 at the age of 41.

She was born Dec. 20, 1973 to John Joseph and Joan Cherry Zuniga-Shepherd in Orange,

She was a member of the Second Baptist Church in Okmulgee. Mary was very adventurous and loved to dance and sing but most of all, she loved her family and had a special bond with her grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her: parents, John Joseph and Joan Cherry Shepherd; grandparents, Joe Zuniga and Joan Albert Zuniga and Charles and Betty Shepherd and niece, Aurora Rose Shepherd.

Survivors include her: sons, Martin Solorzano, Jr. of Tulsa, Okla., Mario Solorzano and fiancé, Ashlee Manns of Okmulgee, Marty Solorzano of Tulsa three sisters, Helen, Geraldine and Marcos Solorzano of Okmulgee; step-dad, James Dickerson of Okmulgee; longtime companion, Josh Pascale of Okmulgee; sisters, Sherry 'Pumpkin' Contreras and husband, Gerardo of Mounds, Okla., and Joeann King and husband, Jeff of Oklahoma City; brother, John Shepherd of Okmulgee; Aunt Babe -Sue White of Okmulgee; grandchildren, Brooklyn and Ava 'Little Bitty' VanStraten and Leo Joe Solorzano along with numerous other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held March 9 and wake services were held that evening, both at the Schaudt's Okmugee Funeral Service, 220 S. Alabama Okmulgee, OK 74447, 918-756-3300.

Funeral Services were held March 10 at the Second Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Johnny Leybas and Pastor Steve Gallagher officiating.

Burial followed the service at the Okmulgee Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Martin Jr., Mario, Marty and Marcos Solorzano, Joey Anguiano, Daniel Agnew, Albert Thomas and Boltin Wilbanks.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Seth Shields, Christopher Lee, Josh Pascale, James Dickerson, Alex Castillo, Giovanni Shepherd and Adam Munds.

Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral

Family and friends may send condolences online at: www. schaudtfuneralservice.com.

MCN SRO schedule

Media Release

April 1 Citizenship 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 3 Closed for Good Friday

Child Support Enforcement 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 7, 14, 21, 28 Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

For more information call: 405-452-1100.

Senior Services taking applications for lawn care

Senior Services/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Department Summer Lawn Service will begin April 1 and run through Oct. 1.

Senior Services will be glad to assist you but please keep in mind that we have two crews for the entire MCN jurisdiction and try to schedule as many lawns in an area at one time to be more efficient and cost effective.

Our top priority will be the frail, impaired and those with a disability.

Please note the following:

- Applicants must be 55 years or older and provide a MCN citizenship card
- They must be home while the crew is mowing
- Crews must be warned of any hazards (pipes, boards, tree stumps, etc.)
- Yard must be clear of debris; trash, bottles, etc.
- Animals must be placed indoors or tied up
- We will weed-eat only as time allows • We do not brushhog or
- mow large acreage • Please contact Arbor Care for removal of trees, limbs, etc. at: 918-752-8577.

For more information or to apply call: 918-732-7765.

CORNSTALK SHOOT SET FOR APRIL 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Creek Bowshooters Society has set a cornstalk shoot for April 4 weather permitting at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee. The range will open at 9 a.m. and shooting begins at 10 a.m.

Lunch is potluck and begins at 12 p.m. Bring your own beverage.

For more information contact John Brown at: 918-759-8283.

Search for the society on Facebook at: Mvskoke Cvkotakse Seccvlke Emeteliketv.

The society will also be at the Eufaula Heritage Days event starting at 10 a.m. April 18. For more information call Rona Davis at: 918-490-1358.



WILD ONION DINNER **SET FOR APRIL 4**

WEWOKA, Okla. - Sand Creek Eufaula Baptist Church has set a wild onion dinner for April 4 from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

All you can eat dinners are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under and \$10 for carryout.

The church can be reached from Highway 270 and 56, by going south one mile, turning west and going 1 and 1 quarter miles.

DAY OF PRAYER SET FOR APRIL 4

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Day of Prayer is set for April 4 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound Building auditorium on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Citizens, employees and officials of all tribal Nations are welcome.

For more information contact Betty Pulver at: 918-282-9381.

MARKET/TACO **SALE SET FOR APRIL 11**

TWIN HILLS, Okla. — The Twin Hills Indian Community has set a Spring Flea Market and Taco Sale for April 11 from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the intersection of Highways 52 and 16 in north east Okmulgee County behind the Twin Hills Convenience Plaza.

The market begins at 8:30 a.m. and the taco sale at 11 a.m.

To reserve a table call Mark at: 918-527-5155.

NATIVE ART MARKET SET FOR APRIL 25

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The second annual Checotah Native Art Market is set for April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Heartland Heritage Center Museum and Gallery, 116 N. Broadway, Checotah, OK 74426.

For more information call Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Jon Tiger at: 918-850-3806.

MNN DEADLINES

April 15 — April 7

May 1 — April 23

May 15 — May 7 June 1 — May 22

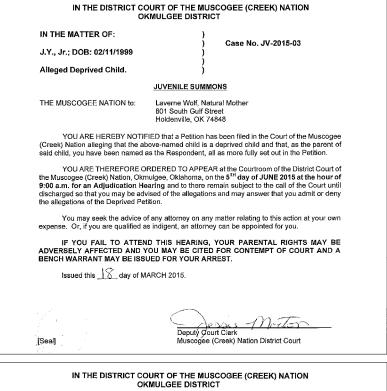
June 15 — June 8

MVTO

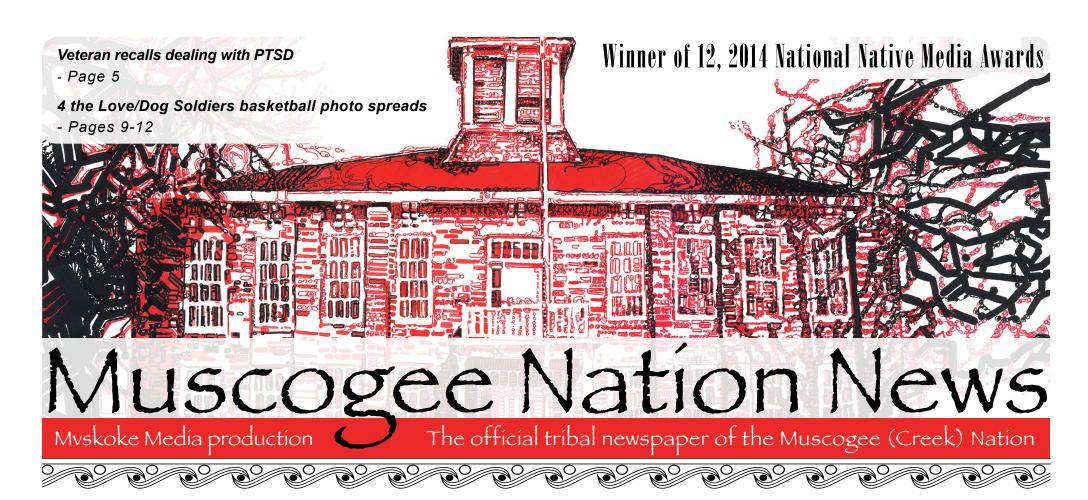
To the many who shared our grief and extended their condolences in so many ways, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. There are so many to be thanked personally; MVTO to all who prepared and brought delicious food. A special thanks to Dewar Community Center. If we missed anyone, please know you are remembered in our hearts. The flame of the candle in our life has been extinguished but the memories from that light will be forever. We thank all who let dad enter their lives. MVTO and God bless you.

Sincerely, The Hicks family





IN THE MATTER OF Case No. JV-2015-03 J.Y., Jr.; DOB: 02/11/1999 Alleged Deprived Child JUVENILE SUMMONS THE MUSCOGEE NATION to: Joseph Yahola, Sr./Unknown Father, Natural Father 313 N. Echo Holdenville, OK 74848 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the Court of the Muscogee Creek) Nation alleging that the above-named child is a deprived child and that, as the parent of aid child, you have been named as the Respondent, all as more fully set out in the Petition. YOU ARE THEREFORE ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on the $\mathbf{5}^{14}$ **day of JUNE 2015 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. for an Adjudication Hearing and to** there remain subject to the call of the Court until discharged so that you may be advised of the allegations and may answer that you admit or deny the allegations of the Deprived Petition. You may seek the advice of any attorney on any matter relating to this action at your own expense. Or, if you are qualified as indigent, an attorney can be appointed for you. IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THIS HEARING, YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND YOU MAY BE CITED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A BENCH WARRANT MAY BE ISSUED FOR YOUR ARREST. Issued this 18 day of MARCH 2015.



MCNDH holds ribbon-cutting for new MRI building

New service to 'cut' wait time, enhance convenience

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health hosted a ribbon-cutting event March 24, at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee to celebrate the opening of the new Magnetic Resonance Imaging Building.

"This is another milestone that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has done for our citizens," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "Anytime that we can invest in ourselves and get a return on that investment, it speaks volumes about what this Nation is doing."

An MRI is a test that uses a magnetic field and pulses of radio wave energy to make pictures of organs and structures inside the

According to Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith, it is another level of diagnostic service. MCNDH already has X-ray, ultrasound, mammograms



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials held a ceremony March 24 for the new MCN Department of Health MRI Building located at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee, Okla.

and CT (computed tomography). All of these are similar to an

"It is a different type of major importance of bringing in an MRI to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

In many cases, MRI gives different information about

structures in the body than what can be seen with an X-ray, ultrasound or computed tomography scan. MRI may also

Smith said that the new MRI machine will allow MCNDH to collect from patients' insurance for the service rather than outsourced this procedure to in the past.

"All our patients can stay here," Smith said. "We do not have to send them out to other areas for

The machine will also provide faster more convenient service.

"With having this building

show problems that cannot be imaging but a very useful tool for diagnosis," Smith said. "That is a seen with other imaging methods.

the facilities they commonly MRI - 2

Okmulgee theater hosts 'This May Be the Last Time'

Harjo speaks about movie, new projects

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives presented a screening of a film March 12 directed by Sterlin Harjo about Mvskoke hymns entitled, 'This May Be the Last Time,' at the Orpheum Theater in Okmulgee.

The event included a meet and greet with Harjo (Muscogee/ Seminole) before the movie and a question and answer session with the filmmaker following it.

"We are excited to be able to provide an opportunity to watch this amazing film and reconnect with our Muscogee (Creek) history and culture," CCA Special Projects Coordinator Chris Azbell said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Wotko Long, who appeared in the film, was also present for the pre-screening meet and greet. He and his first cousin Floyd



MNN/Amanda Rutland

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives hosted a screening event for the film 'This May Be the Last Time' March 12 at the Orpheum Theater in downtown

Jones spoke about the creation of Muscogee (Creek) hymns and their family stories that included hymns.

One such story was about the hymn, 'Estvmvn Estomen Fullatskis.' According to Long, during Removal there were two sisters that were separated. One girl was lonely and composed

the song.

"Our people were praying people...This song talks about, 'I will pray for you and I know you will pray for me wherever you are at," Long said.

Harjo shared his inspiration for the film.

"I also thought these songs where really common 'cause I grew up with them and they were just always there and such a part of our life," Harjo said. "I moved to Norman, Oklahoma to go to school and I started realizing that I didn't hear these songs anymore and it was something that I missed."

Harjo said he always included Muscogee (Creek) hymns in his fictional films, but with this documentary he wanted to, "tell a story about the songs and history and at the same time, try to preserve them and maybe try to probe people to learn about them."

Harjo was not sure what the end product would be when he started the film.

"I just knew if I started making the film something good would happen," Harjo said.

Harjo spoke about upcoming projects. One is his next film titled, 'Mekko' and Harjo describes it as a thriller set in Tulsa about street people.

Long will also be appearing in this piece and shared a story

Last - 2

April 15, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 8 "Tasahce Rakko" Big Spring



Employee protection bill passes during **Council session**

Further funding approved for forensic audit

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. – A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held March 27 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

- TR 15-035 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a customer agreement and software license agreement between MCN and Dolphin Imaging and Management Solutions for the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 13-036 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an assignment of lease between the Nation and Big Time Billboard. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.
- TR 13-037 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Muskogee County for improvements to Wainwright Road. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 15-040 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement with the Space Center Inc. for storage space for the Nation's gaming facilities. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- TR 14-041 Authorizing Covenant Harvest Ministries to use the Great Seal of the MCN. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 15-037 Appropriating \$445,832.59 to grant Thornton

Council - 2



MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE <u>ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

RADIO SPECIALIST

gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

GARY FIFE

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

College hosts HIV and hepatitis C testing



An HIV testing kit utilized by The College of the Muscogee Nation Health and Wellness Program for the HIV and hepatitis C awareness and prevention drive at the CMN

HIV testing: my experience

campus in Okmulgee.

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The room was quiet; the only audible sounds were the hum of the lights and the vibration of the air

my breath as I waited for the results of my HIV test.

"When HIV enters your body, $it\ starts\ to\ attack$ - TCE/HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM SPECIALIST the t-cells. Well, the t-cells send

out warriors to attack the virus; so, those are called antibodies. That's what we test for," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Targeted Capacity Expansion /HIV Program Prevention Specialist John Hawk Co-Cke' said.

The free testing was part of the College of the Muscogee Nation Health and Wellness program HIV and hepatitis C awareness and prevention drive March 23 at the CMN campus in Okmulgee.

I signed up at the booth, where HW Case Manager Elise Brown was giving informational pamphlets and promotional items.

When it was my turn, I was led down a hallway to an empty room. Before administering the actual test, I signed a consent form to allow the test and give me the results.

Co-Cke' informed me that no one else would receive my results: not hospitals, insurances companies or an employer.

"This is a confidential test... It is that protected by law. You cannot be discriminated against for HIV testing," Co-Cke' said.

Then Co-Cke' asked me a series of questions, which reminded me of the screening before donating blood. The questions were about drug use, possible HIV exposure and sexual history to assess my risk.

According to Co-Cke, if conditioner. I tried not to hold exposed to HIV and it is

"THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL TEST...IT IS

THAT PROTECTED BY LAW. YOU CANNOT

BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FOR HIV

JOHN HAWK CO-CKE'

contracted, it may take be-

tween one to three months

for a test to register positive.

swab. I rubbed it inside my

mouth starting from one cheek

over my gums, flipped the swab

over and did my other cheek. The

swab was placed in a clear solu-

tion and Co-Cke' set the timer.

The test consisted of a mouth

"We are going to find out in 20 minutes if you have been exposed," Co-Cke' said. Then, it was time to wait.

Although, I did not think there was anything I should worry about, I was tense thinking of the unknown and contemplating the 'what ifs.'

The timer beeped and I saw a blue line on the side of the swab. It looked like pregnancy test. small

Co-Cke' explained what the line meant: one line was negative, two lines for positive. I breathed a sigh of rewas negative.

I had wanted to do the hepatitis C testing as well, but the testing supplies did not ship in time.

The drive drew such an overwhelming interest, that additional testing was also offered March 27 and hepatitis C testing was done at that time.

According to Co-Cke', while hepatitis C can be transmitted from needle drug use, it can also be contracted from tattoos and piercings. Hepatitis C can even live in tattoo ink. Zero to three

> percent of people contracted it from sex.

"That virus can live in a syringe up to three weeks and still infect... That is how strong it is. It can dry out

and hot, warm blood hits it; activates it," Co-Cke' said. According to Brown, hepatitis C testing will be offered again in the near future.

"We want students and also community members to know and understand the symptoms, effects, you know; risk factors, all of that," Brown said.

MRI

MCN.

The

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 here and the treatment we

can do, there is a shorter turnaround time for our patients to get their results," Smith said. "Usually, our patients would have to wait weeks before they could get their results. Now our patients can get the results in 15 minutes if it is urgent."

Barnett sentencing

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Ac-

cording to the U.S. Attorney's

Office of the Northern Dis-

trict of Oklahoma, sentencing

for former Muscogee (Creek)

Nation Second Chief Roger

Barnett was postponed to

May 5 at 9:30 a.m. before U.S.

District Court Chief Judge

Barnett entered a plea of

guilty Oct. 9, 2014 to federal

charges of embezzling ap-

proximately \$150,000 from

curred during a sentencing

hearing April 2 at the Federal

Court House in Tulsa, Okla.,

due to an incomplete presen-

This follows three previous

sentencing delays since the

initial hearing scheduled Jan.

tence investigation report.

postponement oc-

Gregory K. Fizzell.

rescheduled for

May 5

Media Release

Tiger credited interdepartmental cohesion for the project's success.

"Collaboration from the different departments shows what this tribe can do to help improve our services both financially and for our citizens," Tiger said. "That is the Myskoke way."

MNN/Sterling Cosper

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held March 27 at the Mound Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LLP to conduct the forensic audit. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

- NCA 15-052 Authorizing \$178,978 to supplement the Citizenship Board Office's fiscal year 2015 budget. Rep. Jonnie Greene sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Reps. James Jennings, Joyce Deere and Tiger voting against it.
- NCA 15-053 Authorizing a \$1,452 appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Reps. Mitch Jack and Franklin Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-
- NCA 15-054 Authorizing a \$500 appropriation to

- a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Jack and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Reps. Darrell Proctor, Deere and Greene voting against it.
- NCA 15-055 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to Okemah Summer Kids Café. Jack and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 15-056 Authorizing a \$57,000 supplemental appropriation to the MCN Social Security Assistance Program for the purpose of providing legal/ paralegal services to Muscogee (Creek) citizens appealing their Social Security disability denials. Tiger and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 15-057 Amending Title 28, Chapter 7, entitled, 'Tribal Construction Engineer' and adding a new subchapter

- 7-108 entitled, 'Bonding Required.' Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed
- NCA 15-058 Amending NCA 14-158 (A law of the MCN approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2015 and providing for appropriations). Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 15-060 Amending Title 37, Chapter 2, Subchapter 7 entitled, 'Cash Receipts and Petty Cash Management.' Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.
- NCA 15-063 Amending MCN Code Annotated Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 5 entitled, 'Employee Protection.' Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

Hufft was excused.

LAST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about filming. Long was told to go into one of the local clothing rooms for the homeless and pick out something to wear.

"There was a rack up there and I walked up there and was looking at them. And I looked at myself and he [Harjo] said, 'Go ahead and wear what you've got on.' " Long said with a laugh. "So, all they put on me was an army jacket, 'Just be yourself.'"

The other project Harjo is working on is a podcast called, 'The Cuts with Sterlin Harjo,' which he hopes will be weekly.

"It's just a podcast I am starting. It's really just people who interest me; whoever I want to interview," Harjo said.

The first episode features his 14-year-old daughter and they discuss art, music and Native identity.

For more information on, 'The Cuts with Sterlin Harjo,' www.thecutspodcast. com.

For more information about, 'This May Be the Last Time' and purchasing information, visit: www. thismaybethelastime.com.

CMN instructor receives national recognition



MNN/Amanda Rutland

College of the Muscogee Nation Native American Studies Instructor Norma Marshall was awarded the Tribal College Faculty Fellowship March 20 at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Tampa, Fla.

Marshall awarded fellowship at professional conference

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — College of the Muscogee Nation Native American Studies Instructor Norma Marshall received the Conference on College Composition and Communication Tribal College Faculty Fellowship March 20 at the CCCC Annual Convention in Tampa, Fla.

The fellowship granted Marshall a membership to the National Council to the Teachers of English as well as the fourday CCCC Convention and

\$750 toward incurred expenses.

CCCC describes itself as, 'the world's largest professional organization for researching and teaching composition.' According to a press release about the event, the goal of the fellowship is to advocate language and literacy and create new opportunities for tribal college faculty.

conference hosted over 500 sessions relating to composition and communication. Marshall described one over cultural rhetoric.

"[Presenting] language, culture, history within the frame work of writing essays and research papers and things of that nature. Because it targets the interest of the students; what they choose to write about from a cultural perspective."

Marshall believes this award reflects well on CMN as well as herself because the college is still in the process of accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission.

"The more we as faculty members and staff members become professionally recognized and involved in these endeavors, the better our chances are for receiving accreditation," Marshall said.

She also believes it is an encouragement for students to understand that Native Americans and Muscogee (Creek) people have an impact on a global scale.

Something that stood out in Marshall's mind durthe conference student presentations.

"Students were there and they did poster presentaprofessionally tions; done presentations...that poster would be something our Muscogee students could aspire to do that," Marshall said.

Marshall was grateful for the experience and believes it was a blessing from God.

"Out of everybody across the United States, they decided to choose me. So, that makes me feel in the words of our people, eyaske (humble)," Marshall said.

offered to freshman students

in the hopes that they will be-

come career ready quickly and

have experience to pursue in-

ternships that will make them

"So the people are ca-

reer ready essentially after

the first year," Sikora said.

students in seeking and ap-

The program will assist

more valuable employees.

Spring 2015 scholarships announced



MNN/Chelsie Rich Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dace Tiger was awarded the first Eufaula Boarding School Scholarship.

Citizen receives new scholarship

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program awarded scholarships to 15 students during the Spring Scholarship Reception Jan. 24 at Stoneblade Restaurant in Okmulgee.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Dace Tiger was awarded the first Eufaula Boarding School Scholarship.

The purpose of the scholarship is to financially assist new Muscogee (Creek) high school graduates that resided in the Eufaula Dormitory and plans to attend an institution of higher education or a technical/ vocational trade school.

Tiger is an 18-year-old from Bixby, Okla., who resided in the Eufaula Dormitory for three years and is currently enrolled in his first semester at the College of the Muscogee Nation.

The scholarship is in the amount of \$2,000, which is disbursed over two semesters at \$1,000 for each one.

Tiger plans to major in tribal law and minor in gaming.

"My future plans with that degree is to mainly get involved with tribal government," Tiger said. "My long term goal is to become an Indian lawyer and graduate from the law program at TU."

While attending Eufaula High School, Tiger requested to attend the alternate education program.

"I would be able to work at my own pace and within that time I was able to finish out all my credits," Tiger said.

Tiger graduated a semester early from high school and was accepted into CMN the following semester.

After the spring 2015 semester, Tiger will return to Eufaula to attend the graduation ceremony with his fellow classmates and then prepare to leave for basic training as he plans to enlist into the U.S. Marine Corps.

"I've always wanted to do something that my family, my friends, my people could be proud of," Tiger said.

After the Marine Corps, Tiger plans to finish his education.

Tiger is the son of Cynthia Tiger of Tulsa, Okla., and Russell Johnson of Okmulgee.

Tiger is a member of the Deer Clan and Polecat and Duck Creek Ceremonial Grounds.

"We awarded 15 scholarships this semester, the most we have given out thus far, said MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program Resource and Development Specialist Kryste Benge.

The spring 2015 scholarship recipients are:

Bill S. Fife

Cheyenne Been Ghastin Harjo

Fighting Cancer for Kat

Kelly Bell

Corporal Joe Halley

Kellen Bible

R. Perry Beaver

Abbigail Dobson

Claude Cox

Jacob Ficklin

George and Mollie (Jones) Hicks

Faith Harjo

Naomi Harjo Foster/Lois Harjo Ball

Patience Harjo

Cvcke Enheromka (My Mother's

Michelle Morgan

George and Frances Tiger

Monte Randall

Reuben and Fannie Mac (Cook) Turner

Courtney Reeder

Henry Marsey Harjo

Claudette Robertson

Susan Collen Wilson

Jeraldean Tiger

Eufaula Boarding School

Dace Tiger

Jackson Narcomey Rising

Hope Harjo

The MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program is now accepting scholarships applications for the fall 2015 semester.

Applications can be found on the website at: www. creeknationfoundation.org.

The application deadline is June 1, 2015.

For more information contact the foundation at: 918-732-7754.

Graduates to be featured in MNN edition

MNN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will feature 2015 Muscogee (Creek) high school, college, military and technical school graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition.

Submissions should include the: full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/

accomplishments (150 total word limit).

A recent digital photo must also be included with graduates' information, which must be typewritten and submitted via email no later than Friday, May 15 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov. For more information, please

call: 918-732-7697. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Bacone offers media degree starting this year



Bacone Submission

Native rooted curriculum targeted toward tribes

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., is preparing to offer a unique bachelor's degree program to cater to the fast changing world of journalism and media, while also including a Native American spin to assist tribes with media needs.

Bacone Media Center Executive Director and Assistant Communication Professor Andrew Sikora referred to the program as a 21st century communication degree that will teach students a variety of media tools.

"What we're trying to do here; it's not just journalism. It's actually going to give people tools because journalism has changed," Sikora said. Sikora stated that with the invention of the Inter-

net, media has changed.

"We are losing the journal-

istic skills mainly because media are leaning away from true journalism," Sikora said. "I am amazed myself at how quickly the journalistic ethics are eroding."

The current media environment is fast paced and entertainment based, but Sikora said that real journalism will be able to survive by keeping the same message while modifying time



just," Sikora program will The hands-on courses in the busi-

ness and creative spectrums.

Core media courses will be

said. offer

plying for internships and help provide access to an extensive professional network that will allow them to seek careers in various industries. "We are preparing them for

the real media related job," Sikora said. "Almost every industry is using media now... graphics and videos are part of our daily experience. It's a necessity."

In spring 2016, Sikora hopes to initiate a pilot program for Native American tribes to be able to preserve and revitalize their languages through online tools.

"We are really hoping for large numbers of Native Americans," Sikora said. "Obviously because of our history and our location, but also because of certain aspects of our curriculum, that we are trying to model our courses in such a way that will be more useful in Indian Country."

Bacone College was started in 1880 and is the oldest center of higher education in Oklahoma.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council granted the institution 160 acres of land in Muskogee, Okla., in 1885. Starting as a school for Na-

tive Americans in Indian Territory, Bacone College has a longstanding Native American culture and history. For more information about

the program contact Andrew Sikora at: 1-888-682-5514 or by email at: sikoraa@bacone.edu. For more information

about attending Bacone College visit: <u>www.bacone.edu</u>.

Emvpanayv: 'One who tells the story'



New Native liaison, gaming chairman and park bucks

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It Gaming Commission. seems we're off to the races Governor. He is still apparently secretary of the interior while

"Benj"), a citizen of the Cherokee issues affecting MCN. Nation, has served as secretary his work on a variety of things, confirmation may come up. but no listed record of working with tribes.

who really had nothing to report to counterfeit. to tribes in her one and only annual report or in a recent the 20' is running a grass-roots presentation to the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Killer' Andrew Jackson with a Tribes.

The Governor's Office said that put us?

most of the right words like two \$10s. 'jobs' and '\$10.8 billion impact information is easy to come chant? by. His last quote was, "I'm to facilitate the good relationship between the state and the tribes."

to me (PR=public relations).

'facilitating' an interview with yours truly and we'll see what's on his mind.

Well, lawzee! His assistant DID give me a call to see what might days, I guess I didn't see much be arranged. So, here's hoping sense in wearing a little beanie we might be hearing about his agenda from the man himself brick, just to join some boys on 'Mvskoke Radio,' aired live club. March 25 and every Wednesday at 10 a.m. on 1240AM The Brew KOKL Okmulgee.

An 'oldy but maybe a goody'? U.S. National Park Service listed grants to tribes nationwide. Among others, it said the Poarch the Feds didn't say for what.

Somehow, the two just don't seem to fit together. That's after they built a casino on top of the original site of the Hickory Ceremonial Ground. That doesn't seem much like preserving any history. Our own cultural preservation department got \$15,504 for that year.

The new March 18, 2015 release from the Feds Parks folks listed the Poarch Band getting \$49,141, while our Muscogee (Creek) Nation got \$53,188. A Fed Parks guy said those grants usually go to support the tribal you again.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jonodev Chaudhuri was approved by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee March 18 to head up the National Indian

He's going to have his again with a new 'Chief of All hands full with tribal gaming The Oklahoma Indians' for the expanding across the country, and other related activity.

In an earlier interview, adding the role of Native liaison. Chaudhuri said he looked to Chris Benge (pronounced take a 'hands-off' approach to

Let's see if the nomination of state for a couple of years and holds up when it comes to a has a record with the House of full Senate floor vote. There's no Representatives. There is a list of word yet as to when Chaudhuri's

The government is looking to make changes to the U.S. \$20 He replaces Jacque Hensley bill, ostensibly to make it harder

> A group called 'Women on campaign to replace 'Indian

There is some talk that one Benge deals with officials of the choices maybe the late representing other countries Cherokee Nation Principal Chief and works with them. That's Wilma Mankiller. But, there along with his duties as Native is some very stiff competition American liaison. Where does there. But, wouldn't it be nice to get rid of Jackson? Until then, He was quoted as saying we can always trade our \$20 for

I'm sure you've seen the uproar economically' that tribes over the University of Oklahoma contribute to the state. But that fraternity that sang a racist little

During the TV coverage of the looking forward to continuing speech by OU President David Boren condemning their action and kicking them off campus, But that sounds like 'PR-speak' the cameras panned over the folks attending the event. I think I was hoping he could start by I did see a couple of Native guys sitting among them. That made me feel good that they were there and could be seen.

> Way, way back in my college and carrying around a painted

A little group of my friends (just for grins) formed our own 'anti-fraternity:' "Eata Bama Pi."

It's the season for Tafvmpuce— A 2014 press release from the wild onions. Dinners at churches all over Creek country are being announced. I can just smell the wild onions now. If you're going Band of Creeks got \$21,784 for to one, be sure to get there early. 'historic preservation;' although From experience, they can run out and leave you frustrated, with your mouth watering.



Hvtvm Cehecares—I will see

MCN Senior Services taking applications for lawn care

Senior Services/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Department Summer Lawn Service will begin April 1 and run through Oct. 1.

Senior Services will be glad to assist you but please keep in mind that we have two crews for the entire MCN jurisdiction and try to schedule as many lawns in an area at one time to be more efficient and cost effective.

Our top priority will be the frail, impaired and those with a disability.

Please note the following:

• Applicants must be 55 years or older and provide a MCN citizenship card

- They must be home while the crew is mowing
- Crews must be warned of any hazards (pipes, boards, tree stumps, etc.)
- Yard must be clear of debris: trash, bottles, etc.
- Animals must be placed indoors or tied up
- We will weed-eat only as time allows
- We do not brushhog or mow large acreage
- Please contact Arbor Care for removal of trees, limbs, etc. at: 918-752-8577.

For more information or to apply call: 918-732-7765.

4-H taking trip applications

MCN 4-H/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program will take their annual summer trip July 6-13 to Nashville, Tenn., Horseshoe Bend, Ala., Gulfport, Miss., and Duck Commander in Monroe, La.

The trip is open to all MCN 4-H participants 14-years-old and up and the deadline to apply is May 1.

For more information contact MCN 4-H Program Manager Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628 or by email at: whaltom@mcn-nsn.gov.







Veteran recalls dealing with PTSD



 $\label{eq:muscoge} \textbf{Muscogee} \ (\textbf{Creek}) \ \textbf{veteran Joe Taylor shared his experience dealing with}$ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder since the Vietnam War 40 years ago.

Taylor fights personal battle after Vietnam War

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, has been more in the spotlight these days as American troops try to deal with its symptoms upon returning from the Middle East conflict. But the disorder has roots that go back into history.

Muscogee (Creek) veteran Joe Taylor spoke March 18 about living with PTSD on 'Mvskoke Radio,' sharing his story about the cause, effects and recovery from this form of mental illness after his experience in Vietnam 40 years ago.

The Vietnam Veterans of America website described it like this: "PTSD is not a new problem. It is simply a more recent label for an age-old dis-

order... 1980, the American Psychiatric Association des-

ignated PTSD to describe a delayedstress syndrome commonly experienced by combat-veterans.

"This condition had previously been referred to as 'shellshock' and 'war/combat neurosis.' Although PTSD is often associated with Vietnam veterans, it appears in veterans of all wars and eras."

Taylor had served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967-1970 with a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968 as a forward observer for an artillery bat-

Upon arriving in the conflict, Taylor was promptly inserted into the siege of Khe Sanh, with a ten-to-one ratio of enemy troops surrounding his company.

For Taylor, his recognition that he was suffering from PTSD came after the actual combat experiences.

"When you're in a situation like that, you don't think 'I'm in a dangerous situation.' You only do, you only take what's given to you at that moment. You don't think about it; you don't dwell on it. The danger is appropriate; it's right there, in your face.

It's later on, down the road, after the battle is over; you come back home or you go, 'back to the rear with the gear,' as they say, and you get time to relax, drink some beers and the next thing you know; you're falling into this pattern of bad dreams and nightmares. That's

where it begins," Taylor said. Taylor wrote in a background paper: "At first, these sudden violent memories seem innocuous and you just shake them off as another day in the office; especially when you're engaged in a dangerous situation and since everybody else around you seem to be having the same reaction. You ignore the bad dreams...the nightmares and the repetition of their occurrence."

Those early symptoms, Taylor said, progressed into a deeper depression.

"It causes a mental stress. Once you get back to civilian life, if you don't address this issue; it will grow on you because the nightmare don't stop once you come back home," Taylor said.

CANCER AS A MATTER OF FACT."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERAN

JOE TAYLOR

"It doesn't wear away. It contin-

ues to eat at you, almost like a

cancer and it becomes a mental

Taylor remembers still suf-

fering from the nightmares and

flashbacks. Even things that had

little connection to the Vietnam

War could trigger these reac-

"It kind of grew into a para-

noid situation where I would

sit in the corner where I could

see everybody in a restaurant. I

would sit in the back of a movie

theater where nobody could

people; I became very overcau-

tious of people. Basically, I just

started shutting down. I started

becoming an alcoholic after a

while and that was like 40 years

It was his recognition of an

addiction that made Taylor stop

and think about the causes of his

problems and eventually led him

Affairs) and I talked to them and

they called around to see if they

could reserve a place for me in

a PTS therapy unit," Taylor said.

"I went to Little Rock, Arkansas

and that's where I received treat-

"I went to the VA (Veterans

"I became very suspicious of

spring a trap on me.

later," Taylor said.

to seek help.

cancer as a matter of fact."

tions.

He outlined the experience from that point.

"When it does sneak up on you and you do realize that you have this disease, it's going to be kind of hard to explain it to the doctor what's going on," Taylor said. "Like most people, they don't understand PTSD as being something that can become critical to your mental and physical health because it does wear you away."

Resources available these days from the VA or Indian Health Services are helping but he stressed the importance of being a persistent self-advo-

"If you go to the VA or if you go to the Indian clinic or anything, they may not listen to you. They may not think that your symptoms of PTSD are that severe.

"That's how come it's real important to continue going back; going to all the services and trying to help get help. Sometimes, just saying 'help' doesn't get the results that you want," Taylor said.

Taylor declares that he has been satisfied with the assistance from the VA facilities in this state. He adds that he has taken advantage of the resources available from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and IHS.

"I think the Indian health services are more susceptible. If you tell them you're having nightmares, strings of nightmares or you wake up in a cold sweat, you get these flashbacks; I think they're more prone to listen to you," Taylor said.

Taylor referenced a VA pamphlet, which states that every 63 minutes, a veteran commits

"That has become something of an alarm to these Indian

health services," Taylor said. "If you Around "IT DOESN'T WEAR AWAY. IT CONTINUES TO EAT AT YOU, tell them that ALMOST LIKE A CANCER AND IT BECOMES A MENTAL vou're having these nightmares

> or you're having problems thinking, concentrating; they will take it

> seriously." Even with treatment, Taylor said, PTSD is never cured but it can be controlled.

"What it actually does is help you manage and recognize the symptoms. Like when I go into a restaurant now, I still sit in the corner; but I acknowledge the fact that I'm sitting in that corner because of my PTSD.

"If I need to or I want to, I can get up and move. I can move to the middle of the room and be the perfect target. You just learn to manage these things," Taylor said.

For people who may be experiencing PTSD but are not convinced of it, Taylor had some words of advice.

"If you've been in any kind of life-threatening situation and this includes everybody either a natural disaster or you've witnessed a murder or you've witnessed someone being killed in a car accident; it does have a profound effect on you and your mental state. It's real important to address that."

If you or someone you know is suffering from PTSD, contact MCNDH Behavioral Health at: 918-758-1910.

Citizen utilizes 'assemblage' as medium to tap emotion



Muscogee (Creek) artist Durango Mendoza at his exhibit, 'IN CAHOOTS: The Capture of Choice, Change and Coincidence.'

Mendoza compassionate through social work, activism and the arts

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An exhibit entitled, 'IN CAHOOTS: the Capture of Choice, Change and Coincidence | Assemblage and Photography' by Muscogee (Creek) artist Durango Mendoza, premiered Jan. 22 through 'Art at the Y' at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign YMCA in Champaign, Ill.

"I can tell you from my end, that this was an excellent exhibition and very well received," said Art at the Y Associate Director Ann Rasmus. "Durango is wellknown and well-liked in this area and it was a pleasure; both to work with him and to show his work."

'Assemblage' as Mendoza defines it, is a sculpture medium that is comprised of materials

Mendoza became involved in a movement to replace UIUC mascot Chief Illiniwek, after his daughter attended her first football game as a student and became upset by the mascot, which was played by a white man dancing to faux Indian music.

"She became active in opposing this twisted 'tradition' and when I moved to the area for my job the following year, so did I," Mendoza said.

In 2005, the NCAA deemed the mascot as 'hostile and abusive' and banned the university from hosting postseason activities until UIUC retired Illiniwek in 2007.

"Eventually, our group helped establish the first Native American house at the U of I," Mendoza said. "An American Indian studies department was also implemented."

Mendoza has always tried to make a difference through his work, including his position as a social worker.

"My professional job required empathy, a desire and ability to understand by listening and contemplating all aspects of the situation at hand," Mendoza said. "The subsequent outcomes were designed for the individual and the family's best interests and they had a hand in what was

Mendoza held this job while attending the Art Institute of Chicago on a scholarship and applied his token medium to this vocation from which he is now retired.

"WHEN MY KIDS WERE LITTLE, THEY ASKED ME, 'DAD WHY DO YOU PICK UP ALL THAT STUFF?' I TOLD THEM I ONLY PICK UP THINGS THAT SPEAK TO ME."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) ARTIST **DURANGO MENDOZA**

he finds and purchases and later puts together to create pieces; when the muse strikes him and he can see each item's potential to become the greater part of a whole.

'The theme for my work, including my photography is, 'Ways of Seeing,' " Mendoza said. "I recently ran across a quote from Dorothea Lange, 'The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera."

Mendoza applies this philosophy to his assemblage by trying to present to the viewer, each item's characteristics of origin and use/misuse, which if contemplated, will elicit their own range of responses.

He then combines these different items, whose origins may seem to contradict or enhance one another, in a single piece to create an intriguing culmination of energy.

"As I contemplate say, the shiny and new juxtaposed with the damaged and rusted, or the weathered and natural with the manufactured but discarded; certain human emotions may be activated when the viewer is encouraged to alter their, 'ways of seeing," Mendoza said.

He sometimes regards the works as little nuclear families and explained his own family's reaction to his process.

"When my kids were little, they asked me, 'Dad why do you pick up all that stuff?' I told them I only pick up things that speak to me.

"After that, on walks they would find something and bring it to me and say, 'Daddy, does this speak to you?' I tended to keep each because I knew it probably spoke to them," Mendoza said.

"It was a process of assemblage and the picturing of an outcome that was acceptable," Mendoza said. "In a manner of speaking, it was an art form. It was also a pretty stressful line of work."

Mendoza grew up around Dustin, Okla.

"My mother was full-blood Creek," he said.

His time spent as 'a barefoot boy from the country' exploring the creeks and woods while his family attended church, shaped the way Mendoza would view the world throughout his life.

"All of this influenced me and led me to look for meaning in whatever I saw and heard," Mendoza said. "I tell people there have been many unexplained things in the deep woods of Oklahoma."

Mendoza still visits his four sisters and their families in the area. He along with his wife, with whom he shares an interest in writing, have four children and six grandchildren.

"I tell some of the younger members of my family who show talent, to learn about the many aspects of possible careers and always strive to expand their knowledge, skills and perceptions of the world and nature; as well as try to understand what motivates them and look beyond the obvious and to develop their own way of seeing," Men-

The IN CAHOOTS exhibit ran through February and Mendoza is exploring a Tulsa venue for a future showing of his art. He shared his poem 'Leaving Ever Since' regarding it.

"My work is the texture of my being. I like the seams of where we begin and end to show; openness has its own mystery.

— Mvto."



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Muscogee (Creek) athlete competes on collegiate level



Photo Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Derek Hardin competes for the University of Michigan rowing team. Pictured is also his mother, Lana Hardin.

lete."

Hardin rows toward goal

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Derek Hardin has pushed himself athletically for as far back as he can remember.

"I've been on the go my whole life," Derek said. "It started out with soccer I believe, and a little tee ball... and it just

went from there." His father Robert enjoyed sports and inspired him to

participate. Growing up in Detroit, Derek

found himself going from practice to practice year-round for soccer, basketball, track, crosscountry and swimming.

His mother, Lana Hardin loved every minute of it, especially when Derek's team won the 400-meter relay in high school.

"His last year... his team got the gold," Lana said. "We were standing in the rain to watch

him run and it was cold... but that's what it's all about being parents of a child that's an ath-

She explained that there were not always gold medals, but that she was proud of him regardless because she knew Derek would do his very best.

When she was a teacher, Lana remembered a time that she took off for half of the day to go to one of Derek's track meets.

"I SAW THAT I WASN'T ON THERE AND I WAS MAD; I WAS REALLY MAD."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN **DEREK HARDIN**

"...I flew to that school... and I had to park a long distance and then I had to run from the parking lot to the field," Lana said. "But I was determined that he saw me in that stand and watch him cross that finish line."

Derek followed his parent's and brother's footsteps and attended the family alma mater, University of Michigan.

His freshman year, he desired

to continue athletics and decided to try out for something new and different.

"But then I found rowing and when I went down, my criteria, it was perfect," Derek said.

He was confident he would make the team because he was in shape and made a good time at tryouts. Tryouts consisted of a timed completion of 4,000 meters on the rowing machine.

The coach posted the team roster sheet on the wall and Derek waited until the room cleared to see the results.

He did not find his name on the list.

"I saw that I wasn't on there and I was mad. I was really mad," Derek said. "Not only do I have to wait a whole year, I have to wait a whole year to prove myself."

Derek said he built up emotion that carried him through the rest of the year.

The next summer he passionately prepared to try out for the row team again. Derek said he put 110 percent into every workout.

When tryouts came in September, he was determined to make the team.

"...I ended up having the third fastest time," Derek said. "It was a good feeling."

> Derek is part of the eight-man boat on the starboard side.

He said that anyone can achieve their goal when they put forth the effort.

"You just got to keep going after it because eventually that hard work will pay off," Derek said. "I truly believe if you are working hard, you will see the results."

Derek is a member of the Wind Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. His family includes: parents Robert and Lana Hardin, brother Carl and grandmother Marcelle Adams Douglas.

Lighthorse Explorer of the Month: Jerrell Lang



MNN/Chelsie Rich

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Jerrell Lang as the March Explorer of the Month.

Lang inspired by father, older sibling

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Jerrell Lang as the March Explorer of the Month.

The explorer who wears the uniform or insignia that identifies him/her as being associated with the MCN LPD is held to a far more rigid standard of conduct than his or her peers.

Lang is a 16-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen from Boynton, Okla., and a junior at Muskogee High School.

Lang was introduced to the program two years ago and knew he wanted to become a

"My dad was a police officer in Muskogee and I like being in tribal stuff, so I was interested in it," Lang said.

In the two years that Lang has been in the program, he has been promoted in rank and represented the Explorers and MCN on two trips.

"We do classes like police officers, training like police officers... It just helps us become better young adults," Lang said.

Lang shared how he felt when he was named corporal.

"It made me happy, like they trust me and I think I can keep doing the job good," Lang said.

Explorers are judged by law enforcement personnel and quickly learn that only the highest standard of conduct is acceptable.

"You have to become a good leader; you have to show that you can lead and that you get along with everyone," Lang said.

When asked who he looked up to and who has made an impact on his life, Lang spoke about his older brother.

"We grew up with barely nothing. We grew up in the country," Lang said. "We know how to make stuff where we can survive. He basically taught me everything I need to know."

Outside of the Explorers, Lang runs track for his high school and enjoys participating in rodeo in his spare time.

Lang plans to attend Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., after high school and go into law enforce-

Lang is a member of the Wind Clan and Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground and is the son of Martin and Lanita Lang of Boynton,

NYT bestselling author finds inspiration through tragedy



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) and 'New York Times' bestselling author Cynthia Leitich Smith

Citizen leaves legal, journalism professions for literary career

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Muscogee (Creek) and, 'New York Times' bestselling author Cynthia Leitich Smith initially obtained a bachelor's degree in journalism and a juris doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School but began writing children's stories immediately after the Oklahoma City bombing.

"My family includes folks who were involved in the medical and law enforcement responses," Leitich Smith said. "I've never written about the bombing itself; it's not my story to tell but it inspired me to offer something positive into the world," Leitich Smith said.

Shortly thereafter, she quit her law clerkship with the City of Chicago Department of Health and Human Services to dedicate herself full time.

"What I wanted more than anything was to, in my own small way, lift up children; offer hope and optimism," Leitich Smith said.

Her specialties have remained diverse through her success, as she is currently a permanent faculty member at the Vermont of Fine Arts in Writing for Children and Young Adults Program.

Leitich Smith has published consistently since 2000 and credits her passion for helping her stay motivated and inspired through the demands of a busy schedule.

"I love Story and respect young readers as an audience," Leitich Smith said. "Writing is my day job; it's what I wake up every day to do."

While her other obligations directly pertain to her primary interest, Leitich Smith also shares a love of writing in her personal relationships.

"My husband, author Greg Leitich Smith, is Eurasian (Japanese/German American) and multicultural representation is important to us...Incidentally, he's originally Greg Leitich and I'm Cythia Smith. We combined for 'Leitich Smith' as our byline," she said.

She demonstrates this importance through the protagonists, Jenna from her picture book, 'Jingle Dancer' and Cassidy Rain from her tween novel, 'Rain Is Not My Indian Name;' both of which were inspired by Leitich Smith's Native heritage.

"Rain's background closely resembles mine, including the military family aspect and touches on the interracially and intertribally mixed blood experience," Leitich Smith said.

"I'm also of Scottish, Irish, Swedish and German descent."

Leitich Smith also intertwines the diversity of her career experience. She drew from her time in Chicago to depict an urban setting in the chapter book, 'Indian Shoes.'

"...My background in smalltown journalism comes through, 'Rain Is Not My Indian Name,' which is partially centered on the community newspaper... My time in Austin, living on South Congress, informed the, 'Tantalize-Feral' universe series books," Leitch Smith said.

Leitich Smith began writing poetry as a child and in her career; she has composed 14 children and young adult books.

Her literary choices also reflect her interest in youth-based genres and formats including: poetry, fiction and narrative nonfiction, contemporary and historical science fiction, mystery, fantasy and horror.

"My favorite books include: 'Muskrat Will Be Swimming,' a picture book by Cheryl Savageau (of Abenaki First Nations decent) and Robert Hynes; 'Wish Girl' a middle grade novel by Nikki Loftin and, 'The Agency: Mary Quinn Mystery' series by Y.S. Lee," Leitich Smith said.

She determines the target audience for each piece by starting with the demographic makeup of the main characters.

"Kids usually like to read about heroes who are their age or a little older," Leitich Smith said. "So, I start with the protagonist and then the age of the character dictates the format and market for the book."

She further explained her process for aspiring authors.

"First, listen. I first learned Story by lingering at the kitchen table when my cousins ran outside to play.

"What else? Eat while you're College of Fine Arts Master listening—everything is better with home-cooked food. Connect with a creative and personal community.

"It's all about the tradition and circle of storytelling; not just your one voice in it," Leitich Smith said.

She suggested involvement in Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers and that those writing for kids and teens look into the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

"Once you've done your homework and figured out the basics of writing, feel free to send me an email...I can point you in the right directions," Leitich Smith said.

To contact Leitich Smith for writings tips or to inquire about her free writing workshops for children, email: cynthia@ cynthialeitichsmith.com.

For more information about Leitich Smith or to purchase her work, including the upcoming short story, 'All's Well,' visit: www.cynthialeitichsmith.com.

"The book is centered on a school shooting and told by different authors from various points of view," Leitich Smith said. "This is such an important topic. Our children, all children, must be safe in school. I'm hoping that the book spurs more dialogue."

Leitich Smith is a member of the Wind Clan and also of Cherokee and Blackfoot decent, or as she calls it, 'a patchwork.'

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

DORA BEAVER



TULSA, Okla. — Dora Lynn Beaver, 52, passed away March 26, 2015 in Tulsa. She was born Sept. 8, 1962 to John Beaver, Jr. and Twyla (Tarpalechee) Beaver in Claremore, Okla.

She was a member of the Big wCussetah Methodist Church in Morris, Okla. She loved watching University of Oklahoma football and softball and was always wearing her OU hat. She enjoyed doing her puzzle books and spending time with her family, but most of all, she loved spending time with her niece, Shelby and nephew, Matt.

She was preceded in death by her: father, John Beaver Jr.; grandparents, John Beaver Sr. and Della Mae Beaver and Henry Tarpalechee and Elizabeth Tarpalechee.

Survivors include her: mother, Twyla Beaver of the home; sisters, Nancy Osceola and husband, Duane of Glenpool, Okla., Jeanie Beaver of Morris and Johni Mae Beaver of Morris; brother, Buddy Beaver of Morris; nephew, Matt Osceola; niece, Shelby Osceola and numerous other relatives and friends.

Visitation was held March 30 and the wake service was held that evening with Del Beaver and Regina Keith speaking. Both were held at the Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service, 220 S. Alabama Ave. Okmulgee, OK 918-756-3300.

The funeral service was held March 31 at the Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris with Rev. Newman Frank officiating. Burial followed the service at the Big Cussetah Cemetery in Morris.

Pallbearers were: Brant Beaver, Brent Beaver, John Beaver, Anderson Berryhill, Darrell Tarpalechee, Brian Tarpalechee, Chance Beasley, Blue Tarpalechee, Spencer Schuh and Matt Osceola.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Darin Tarpalechee, Eddy Tarpalechee, Jay Paul Tarpalechee, Kirby Jennings, Kyle Wittman and Drew Wittman.

Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service.

Family and Friends may view the obituary and send condolences online at: www.schaudt-funeralservice.com.

GENE DUNSON



PHOENIX — Daryl Gene Dunson, former resident of the Henryetta, Okla., area, passed from this life March 6, 2015 in Phoenix at the age of 50. Daryl was born Dec. 31, 1964 to Eugene and Juanita Dunson of Henryetta.

Daryl grew up in the Henryetta area and attended Henryetta Public Schools, graduating in 1983 from Henryetta High School. Following high school, Daryl attended Northeast Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Okla., for several years. Daryl moved to Phoenix in 1985.

He was employed by The American Express company where he specialized in corporate credit. He worked faithfully for American Express for approximately 25 years.

Daryl loved playing basketball, and had a passion for University of Oklahoma sports. He especially loved spending holidays with his family. He was a devoted family man and he will be missed and remembered as a wonderful father, son, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend.

He was preceded in death by his mother and his father.

Daryl is survived by his: daughter, Kimberly Dunson and Adis Kurtesevic of Phoenix; son, Daryl Dunson, Jr. and Breanna Orantes of Phoenix; sisters, Wanda Chapo and husband Thomas of Tecumseh, Okla., Susan Bear of Oklahoma City, and Linda Irene of Stanley, N.M.; brothers, David Dunson and wife Lynn of Wetumka, Okla., and Marty Dunson of Henryetta; grandchild, Daryl Gene Dunson III; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other extended family; and many good friends.

Wake Services for Daryl were held March 18 at Integrity Chapel in Henryetta.

Funeral Services were held March 19 at Integrity Chapel in Henryetta with David Dunson officiating. Interment followed immediately at Thlopthlocco Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta.

GLEN JONES



DEWAR, Okla. — Dewar resident Glenn Jones died March 1, 2015 in Dewar at the age of 64. He was born June 25, 1950 in Claremore, Okla., to Elmer Jones and Mahaley (Tarpalachee) Jones.

Glenn is preceded in death by his: parents, daughter, Roberta Jones and two brothers.

Glenn is survived by his: wife, Liz Jones of the home; daughters, Jackie Jones, Jennifer Jones, Harriet Jones and Brenda Jones; son, Scott Jones; grandson, D. J. Jones; a brother and two half brothers, as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

The family of Glenn Jones would like to thank each and everyone who sent flowers, food,

gave money and prayed for us in our difficult times.

May God bless you and keep you.

— Jones family

MARIJO SPOTTEDWOLF



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Marijo Monday Spottedwolf was born Jan. 25 1944 to Jackson Lewis and Ella (Scott) Monday in Okmulgee. She attended school at Sequoyah Indian School in Tahlequah, Okla., where she graduated and continued her education at Haskell Indian University.

She moved to Dallas for job placement.

She married Donnie Baker and bore two sons, Donnie Ray Baker Jr. and Jerry Baker. After the death of Donnie Baker, she married William Brand. They divorced and she married Patrick Spottedwolf in 2004 and adopted his youngest daughter Anna Helen. They made their home in Okmulgee until 2010, when they moved to Clinton, Okla

Marijo was an avid bowler and was known all over as one of the best in her prime. She was still active bowling in a winter league. She also loved playing bingo, traveling across the United States and Canada and attending powwows with her husband.

Marijo was preceded in death by her: parents, four sisters, one brother and one son.

She is survived by her: husband, Patrick of the home; daughter, Anna and her husband Joey and grandchildren, Arianna and Jayden; son, Jerry Baker and his wife Lusa and grandchildren, Zahryna, Eliana, Daniel and Kerusso as well as her stepchildren, Shawn, Anthony and Patrice and their children.

Marijo, or 'Butters' as she was known to many of her friends, had many adopted brothers, sisters, grandchildren and also great-grandchildren. Her smile and friendly manner will be missed by many.

ATTENTION READERS

Some of our subscribers may have received a copy of the Quapaw paper in place of the April 1 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Our printer has taken responsibility for this error and mailed out the correct issue to those who they believe were effected.

Regardless, if you received the wrong paper, please call MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 so that we can personally make sure you will be on the list for the seconding mailing of this edition.

— Mvto

Native athlete seeking donations

Fron Tenetke Nizhoni Watson

Hello! My name is Tenetke Nizhoni Watson and I am an enrolled citizen of the Dine' (Navajo) Nation of Arizona. My father and paternal grandparents are enrolled citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) and Choctaw Nations of Oklahoma. I proudly represent all three Native Nations in all my endeavors.

I am an accomplished runner and have been actively running since I was a little girl. Running is my passion and through it I have gained: self-confidence, strength, discipline, endurance, goal setting and a great deal of knowledge. I have high expectations of myself and I am determined to go far in my athletic abilities and education.

This year, I received a letter stating that I was selected to represent the state of Arizona on the 2015 Pacific Coast Cross Country Team this summer in Australia. I am one of 200 athletes selected from all over the United States competing in this international meet. I will not only represent the United States and the state of Arizona, but also all Nations across Native America and especially my bloodline tribal nations of Dine' (Navajo), Muscogee Creek and Choctaw Nations.

It is a great honor to go across the world as an ambassador of Native youth, Native people and as a Native American. I am very excited and determined to accomplish this goal, but I also need your help to make this dream come true. I need sponsors to donate to my once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to run in Australia. I sincerely appreciate any amount of donation towards my goal.

We will also be raising funds to take a family member/ chaperone to accompany me.

Submission

Facts about me:

• I am 16 years old and the eldest of three children.

- Raised by a single mother who works as a teacher on the Dine' (Navajo) reservation
- I have a 3.5 GPA as a sophomore at Coconino High School in Flagstaff Arizona.
- Honor Society of Native American Students
- Varsity cross-country runner freshman and sophomore year with honors
- Varsity track runner freshman and sophomore year with honors
 - Marathon runner
- Drug free and alcohol free lifestyle
- Goals include: Excelling in academics, athletics, academic and running scholarships to an Ivy League college (preferably Stanford University in California), medical school and continuing to run in marathons

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and information. I sincerely appreciate your sponsorship/donation, your kind words of encouragement and prayers. I promise to do my best and represent you to the best of my ability.

For more information about donating contact: sclawatson75@yahoo.com, ninnieclawl18@gmail.com or Abbie Larney (grandmother) at: 405-712-0933, 517 N. Pine, Holdenville, OK 74848.

NATIVE ART MARKET SET FOR APRIL 25

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The second annual Checotah Native Art Market is set for April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Heartland Heritage Center Museum and Gallery, 116 N. Broadway, Checotah, OK 74426.

For more information call Frankie Blagg at: 918-916-9015 or Jon Tiger at: 918-850-3806.

MNN DEADLINES

May 1 — April 23

May 15 — May 7

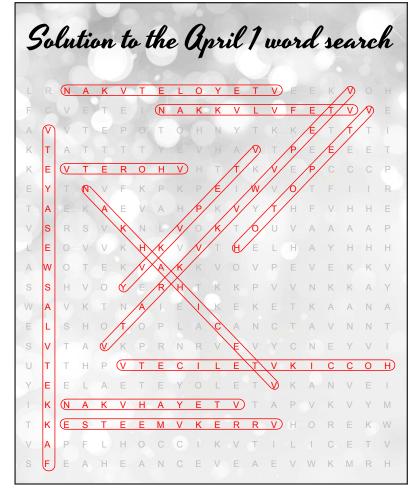
June 1 — May 22

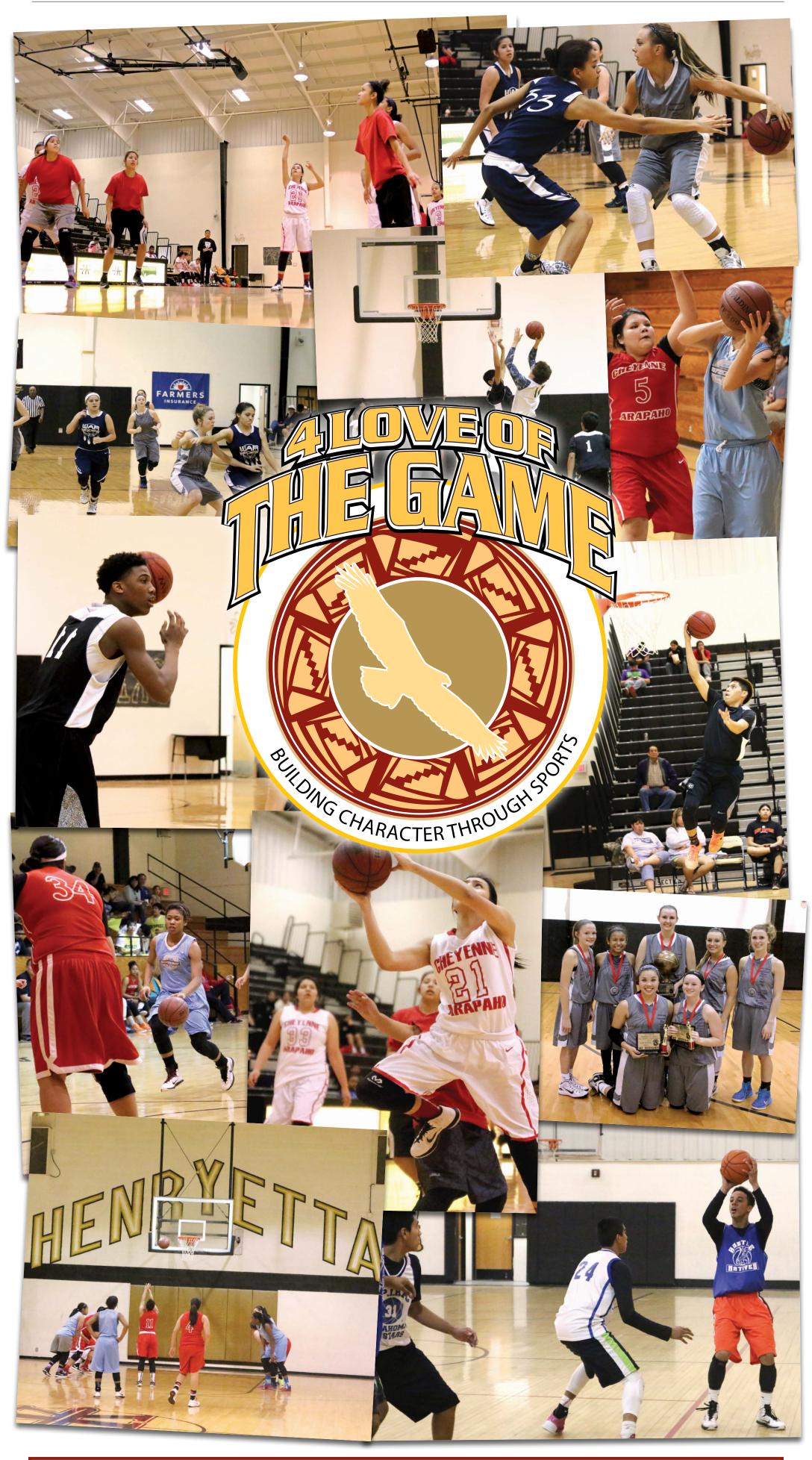
June 15 — June 8

July 1 — June 22

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 — July 24













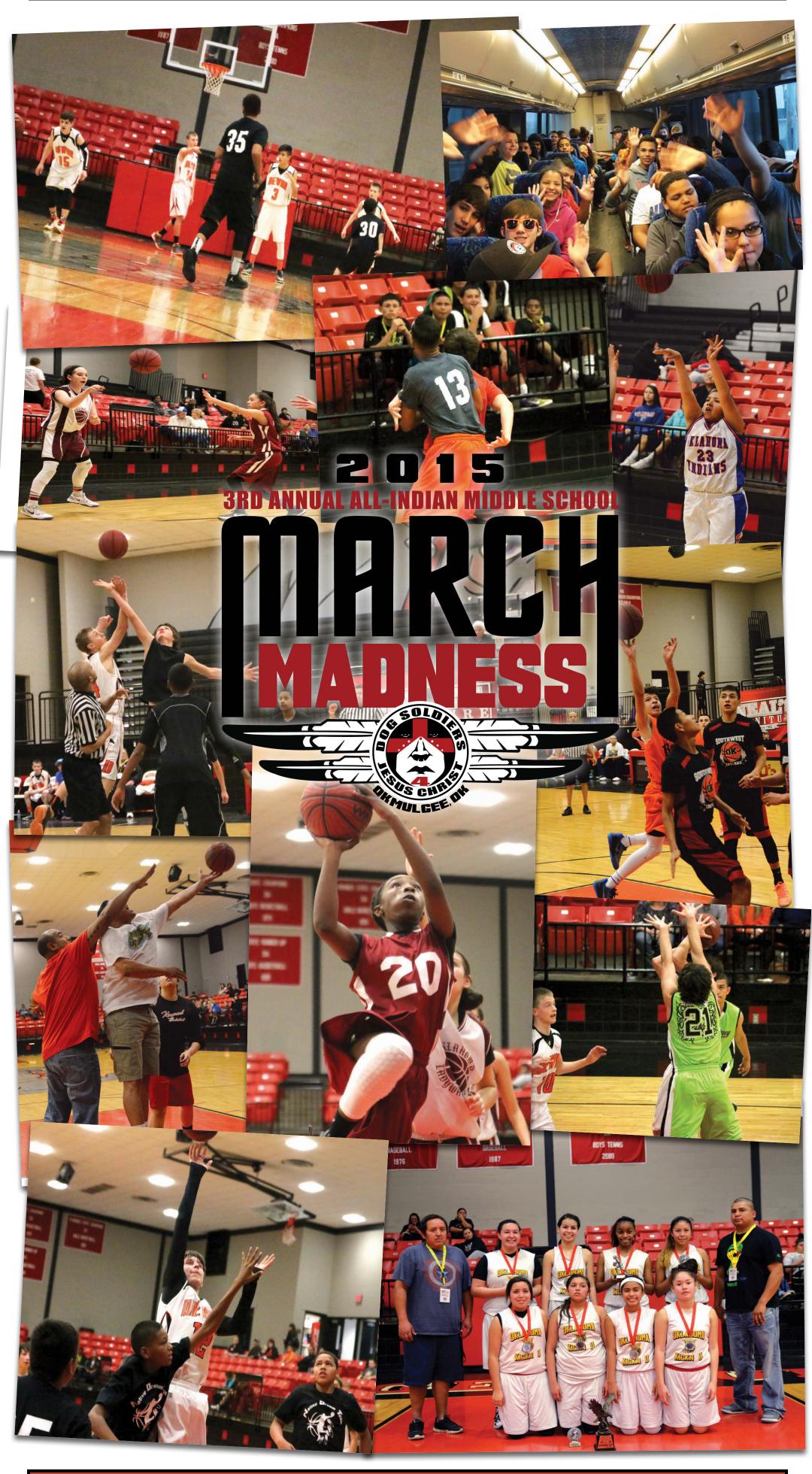




















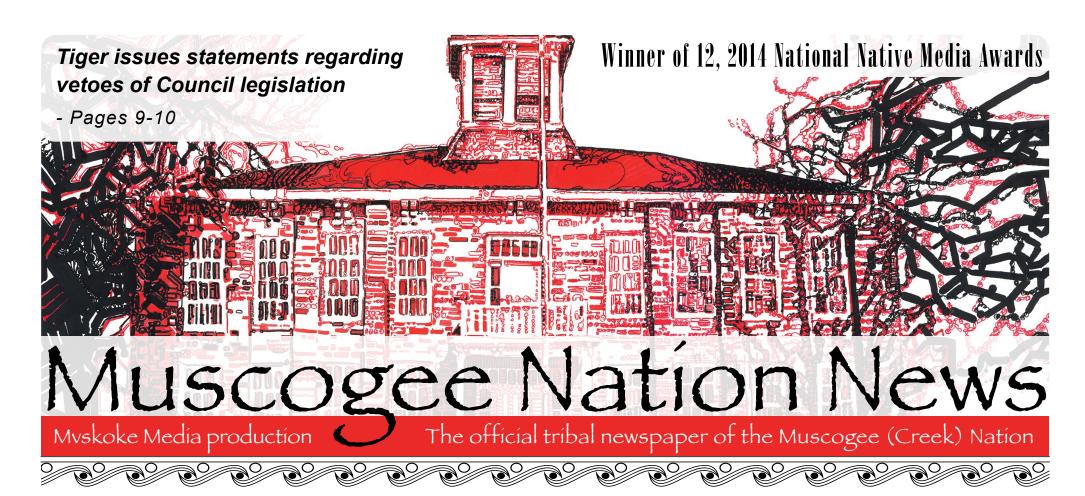












Sexual violence awareness movement makes OKC debut

Attendee shares personal experience while viewing others'

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

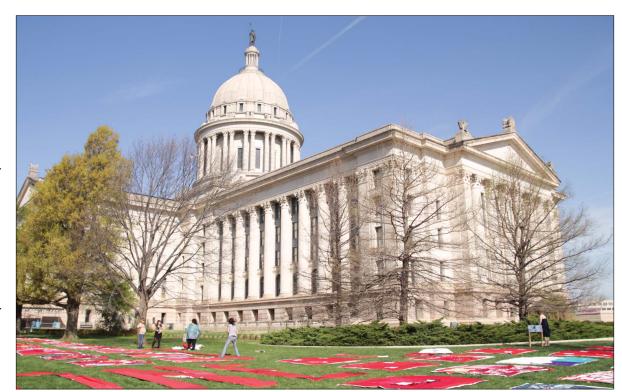
OKLAHOMA CITY -Hundreds of bright red fabric squares blanketed the lawn of the Oklahoma State Capitol April 2 for the Gathering of Voices: Addressing Sexual Assault in Indian Country event.

Each piece was decorated with several personal stories, experiences and thoughts of hope from sexual assault victims from around the U.S. with the intention to raise awareness, provide a sanctuary of public healing and share the realities of sexual assault.

A mother and daughter pair meandered through the Monument Quilt, pondering each account and relating it to their own.

as her mother was subject to and suffered silently. abuse.

"It was really horrible. I had to take care of my siblings and watch my mother go through a



The Native Alliance Against Violence sponsored the Gathering of Voices: Addressing Sexual Assault in Indian Country event April 2 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The event featured the Monument Quilt, which was made up of red pieces of fabric decorated with personal experiences and thoughts from sexual assault victims.

lot of that type of abuse. It was very emotional," she said.

The mother said that after the abuse had ended, she and her The mother grew up watching mother did not seek counseling

> She became a victim advocate at a local domestic violence shelter working with women who are deaf.

"It really touched my heart working with these survivors and providing them with resources and the information that they

"I think having a display like this is incredibly important not only for survivors to come to and read other stories, but also for the public to come and see the stories to recognize that we're not victims; we're also survivors."

The daughter heard about the Monument Quilt exhibit and the Gathering of Voices event and brought her mother to attend.

"This is something close to my heart. I also have experienced

Movement - 2

May 1, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 9

"Ke Hvse" Mulberry Month



Mvskoke Women's Leadership hosts awards banquet

Group acknowledges contributions from young generations

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Women's Leadership group held their fourth annual awards ceremony March 27 at Perryman Ranch in Jenks, Okla.

According to MWL cofounder Cherrah Giles, the awards recognized the contributions of Muscogee (Creek) women of a wide variety of ages through nine different categories.

"...we felt it was important to bridge that gap and make sure we are looking at all Muscogee women across the age groups," Giles said. "See who some of the up and coming young women are; to see where we have been with women that have established themselves already in a career or in life."

The recipients were chosen from nominations received by

Giles explained why she felt it was important to include categories like elementary and middle school.

"I think it is always important that we start identifying these young women early on or at least giving them some recognition," Giles said. "And ideally, keep mentoring and fostering what they are doing; so they will continue on and pursuing college careers or college and careers with the Nation at some point."

Giles also believes it is important to recognize Mvskoke women and their contributions for future generations.

"The Challenge Bowl ... they have a little section on notable Mvskoke women and

Leadership - 4

Campaign aims to raise autism awareness

Okmulgee, MCN support cause through proclamations

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, about one in 68 children have been identified as having an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

ASD is a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges.

The City of Okmulgee, along with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, made proclamations recognizing April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day during the Autism Speaks | Light it up Blue event.

The event kicked off with Okmulgee Mayor Baldridge reading Steven a proclamation for the city. Following that, supporters wearing blue for the awareness campaign made the two-block trip south from Okmulgee City



MNN/Darren DeLaune

The Autism Speaks | Light it up Blue event was held April 2, starting at Okmulgee City Hall and ending at the MCN Council House downtown with an awareness walk and proclamations supporting the cause from Okmulgee Mayor Steven Baldridge (right) and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks (left) on behalf of their respective entities.

Hall to the Council House where MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger could not attend the event due to prior obligations.

This is the third year that the MCN spearheaded the Light It Up Blue campaign.

"This is a national movement; read a proclamation for the I think a global movement," MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department Interim Director Justin Giles said. "It is great to do anything to promote these sort of causes here that affect everyone."

Giles hopes that this event will make an impact.

"We want the people who do not deal with autism to be able to understand what families go through when they have this in their lives," Giles said.

Beggs, Okla., resident Melissa Bonds who has a son with ASD was pleased with the event.

"I love it," Bonds said. "I love it that we know that we have people who are bringing awareness to everyone and that we have the support."

Bonds explained that children with ASD can live their lives to

My son is high functioning autistic," Bonds said. "His day today is pretty normal. The only difference is that he will have a hard time in verbalizing what he is thinking."

Bonds said there are days where her son experiences difficulties but overall, he does very well.

For more information about ASD, call MCN Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services at: 888-756-4333.

Mvskoke Media • P.O. Box 580 - Okmulgee, OK 74447 • 918-732-7720



MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

JESSICA MCBRIDE

jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE <u>ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH <u>crich@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

Youth leadership summit held in Muskogee

Panels featured on social media, scholarships, leadership

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services sponsored the fifth annual Heroes of Hope Summit April 2 at the Muskogee Civic Center in Muskogee.

The theme for this year 'Strive to Stay Alive.' event featured keynote speaker Taylor Mann, breakout sessions and prizes.

Mann who is Pawnee and Absentee Shawnee, shared his life story with attendees.

"You've got to have a goal. I wake up every morning talking about that goal," Mann said.

MCN Department of Health Social Marketing and Technical Assistance Coordinator Lindsley Harry explained some benefits of the event.

"We want everyone to know Behavioral Health offers just more than counseling services. We offer more outreach and educational presentations and this is a great way for us to bring the

schools and other communities get those presentations," Harry said.

A new feature this year was a breakout session entitled 'Courage Care,' which

broached topics like social media etiquette and anti-bullying.

The session included a simulated social media interaction. Everyone in the room wrote a status update on a sticky pad and placed the note on their backs.

Others came by read the status and replied with a sticky to The rule was that whatever was



Taylor Mann addresses students during the Heroes of Hope Summit April 2 at the Muskogee Civic Center in Muskogee, Okla.

posted could only be positive. ship and recognizing different the end, one read the original status and comments aloud.

"You see what words can do to a person," summit breakout facilitator and Health Tar-

"YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A GOAL. I WAKE UP EVERY MORNING TALKING ABOUT THAT GOAL."

- HEROES OF HOPE SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKER TAYLOR MANN

geted Capacity Expansion/HIV Program Prevention Specialist John Hawk Co-Cke' said.

Another breakout session was the 'Youth Leadership 101' panel led by Tyler Hill, 17, Jasmyne Jack, 19, Serena Todd, 17 and Adrienne Phillips, 21.

The panel held a discusrepresent replying to the post. sion about instances requiring someone to assume leader-

roles that require leadership. "I did fast food for a while like I was explaining earlier; and sometimes even without that

title, you have to step up because maybe the boss is busy or she is handling another customer," Phillips said.

Other breakout sessions were 'I'm Committed, hosted by Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, 'Scholarship Advisement'

'Substance Abuse Prevention.' The event was open to seventh to 12th-grade students.

"We really encourage the NASA (Native American Student Association) and JOM (Johnson O'Malley) programs to basically kind of count this in as their school activity. It's free. All they have to do is provide transportation," Harry said.

MOVEMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trauma in my past and so it does touch pretty close to home," the daughter said. "It's hard reading some of the stories but I think it's important."

The Gathering of Voices event was hosted by the Native Alliance Against Violence.

"April is sexual assault awareness month and in honor of that and to honor the victims, we brought in the Monument Quilt based out of Maryland," NAAV Executive Director Dawn Stover said.

NAAV held the event at the Capitol with the goal of bringing awareness to victims who often remain silent due to feelings of shame and guilt.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program attended the event to help educate attendees and support victims, survivors and advocates.

FVPP Director and NAAV Board President Shawn Partridge said that the event was a way to educate individuals who are state leaders and raise awareness about the high rates of sexual assault cases in Indian Country.

"Statistics indicate that Native women experience domestic and sexual violence at higher rates than any other group," Partridge said. "With April being Sexual Assault Awareness month, it's important for us to gather and bring attention to the victimization of Native women."

'Sooners for N7' hosts second annual event

organization holds day of fun for children

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. — Over 200 youth representing tribes throughout Oklahoma came to Norman April 8-10 for the second annual, 'Sooners for N7' hosted by the University of Oklahoma Student Athlete Advisory Committee at the OU Football Practice Fields.

"Our student athletes wanted to make this happen," Senior Associate Athletic Director Nicki Moore said. "They want to show the children how to play and have fun outside. The planning that occurred before today's event has been tremendous."

Nike developed the N7 program to help out Native American tribes and promote healthy living for their citizens. It is inspired by the belief that, if one generation is impacted by something, the next seven generations will also be impacted.

OU wrestling Head team Coach Mark Cody was onhand to speak to the children before the day's events.

"It is an honor for us to be a part of this great event," Cody said. "I think it is great for us to reach out to the Native American community and let them know ter Ty Darlington was one



Participants representing Native American tribes throughout the State of Oklahoma geared up for a day of fun April 8 at the second annual 'Sooners for N7' event sponsored by the University of Oklahoma.

beyond high school, there are opportunities for them." OU student athletes who play football, soccer, golf, wrestling and basketball, volunteered and had fun with the children by hosting separate breakout activities.

"THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST THINGS

WE DO AS STUDENT ATHLETES. IT IS A

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO

OUR COMMUNITY."

- TY DARLINGTON CENTER FOR THE OU

SOONERS FOOTBALL TEAM

stickball, soccer, a

OU football team

Among the activities were:

ball throw and jump rope.

foot-

cen-

of the representatives who helped out with the event. "This is one of the biggest

things we do as student athletes," Darlington said. "It is a great opportunity to give back to our community. Being able to give to the kids here

is pretty special." Darlington also said that the only time the children usually get to see him is on game day.

"So we get to bring them where

we are every single day and get to know them on a personal level," Darlington said. "They get to know us and it is more than a jersey number. It is pretty cool."

Graduate profile deadline set for May 15

MNN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will feature 2015 Muscogee (Creek) high school, college, military and technical school graduates in the upcoming June 1 edition.

Submissions should include the: full name of graduate, school, university or technical institution, parents, ceremonial ground and/or church, tribal town, clan and any awards/accomplishments (150 total word limit).

A recent digital photo must also be included with graduates' information, which must be typewritten and submitted via email no later than Friday, May 15 by 5 p.m.

Submissions should be sent to MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: scosper@mcn-nsn. gov. For more information, please call: 918-732-7697.

Late submissions will not be accepted.



New Oklahoma state Native Liaison discusses plans



Submission

Benge aims to learn more on new mission with tribes

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — On Feb. 9, Oklahoma Gov. Mary appointment of the new cabinet-level Native American Liaison, Chris Benge.

okee Nation, is also currently Oklahoma secretary of state and has served in leadership roles in the state House of Representatives.

deals with officials from other different cultures? countries who visit Oklahoma and other issues.

He will now extend that mission to our tribes, which have a valuable and unique impact on culture," said Fallin while announcing the appointment.

During an April 1 interview on 'Mvskoke Radio,' host Gary Fife asked Benge some questions regarding his plans and priorities for the position.

MR: Tribal governments here in Oklahoma as well as across the Nation have been referring to themselves as Nations. Our tion has changed the name of fries? department managers to 'seclooking at themselves and the relations with the outside world and other governments including the State of Oklahoma.

How are they going to fit into your already busy schedule?

Benge: We'll be out interacting with them as much as possible, as much as we can know about the different activities

that are ongoing with the tribes. For example, for the past couple of months, I've had eight or nine or ten different interactions, meetings, receptions; the Native American caucus meetings here at the state capitol, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, I've appeared at an event there.

What we've tried to do is make sure that the different tribes are aware. If they would like for me to come and appear, please let us know what the you would like us to be there to interact on behalf of the state.

This is likely more than a one-person job. I think it would probably make some sense to maybe have another person on staff to help; somebody who could be out there more so than even I can. I will be out there as much as humanly possible. I think there is a possibility that we may bring an additional person on staff.

MR: Some of the reaction that we're aware of from tribal governments and other sources say there wasn't much results produced from the change of the Indian Affairs Commission to the Native Liaison position.

Benge: I see all these inter-

actions as learning opportunities. The feedback I get from anyone, including what you've just shared with me, is the kind of thing I take seriously. It's a lot like when I was in the legislature can be a role. getting feedback from constituents and trying to act on their behalf as much as you can.

So, having that feedback, I guess, is number one. Number two, the thing that I would offer, I know that there has to be respect for the tribes and that's what I hear and have heard over the years; is they really need and are asking for respect. I think that's going to be really important for my focus as I interact with them.

I think we're at a juncture in Fallin's office announced the our relations, where there are more and more opportunities between the state and the tribes.

MR: You are a member of the Benge, a citizen of the Cher- Cherokee Nation. Do you have much chance to keep close cultural ties with your heritage? How might that translate when you're dealing the plains cultures of tribes like the Kiowas "As secretary of state, he also or Comanches, who have vastly

Benge: I think that learning and works with them on trade all the different cultural practices and values of the different tribes—that is going to be the challenge.

Probably the biggest part of Oklahoma's economy and our the experience there has been serving in the legislature and my stint as speaker of the house; where I had more interaction with the tribes than I had had previously and I know that that is going to be the challenge. That is going to be where I am going to have to do a lot of listening and lot of note-taking quite honestly.

MR: Not much chance to get own Muscogee (Creek) Na- back for stompdances or hog

Benge: I've been to a couple retary' and elevated the way of stompdances, but I don't know— I haven't been to that many, but I would love to go to some in the future. It would be a good learning opportunity for me.

> **MR:** Have you made up a list of things that you want to work I believe anyway, with the head on, your priorities, perhaps, for tribal governments?

Benge: I could probably boil that down to almost one bullet point. That is just outreach and I have made a mental list, that I want to go and visit as many of the tribes as I would be welcome to do so and really just to and spend time just learning their culture and what their priorities

I have heard a lot of discussion about health care that comes up. I know that the tribes are challenged by trying to provide good health to their citizens. But, I would like to go out and really experience their culture as much as I possibly can.

MR: We have a lot of connecevent is and the setting and if tions with the federal government. How do you see yourself working into that federal-tribal relationship, perhaps, as an advocate, an observer-what do you think?

Benge: I just had a meeting this morning with a representative with the Veterans Administration, a tribal specialist and she has spent time trying to work on Native American veterans health issues and trying to help them to access health care as well as trying to form partnerships between the Indian Health system and the Native American systems themselves with the federal veterans affairs.

That is one area where I can help in the interaction with the federal government. I believe

that the federal government seems to be even more focused on having better relations with the tribes.

Helping connect those 'dots'

MR: One of the 'hot topic' issues has been the growth of tribal gaming. Our own tribe is building a new collaboration with Margaritaville there on the Arkansas River. Other tribes are looking to add their own enterprises for their economic expansion.

Where will you be when those kinds of issues come up? Will you be supportive of tribal enterprises or perhaps asking them to slow down and recon-

Benge: These are some of the things I hear from tribes, that they want to diversify their interests.

MR: Where do you rank tribes as far as being an economic 'pillar' here in Oklaho-

Benge: I think the number I heard was \$10.8 billion total economic impact. I hope I'm right on that number. It's growing; we certainly can see it, thousands of jobs. They are jobs in areas that have not had a lot of growth opportunity—rural Oklahoma. I would have to say it's significant.

MR: How do you plan to fill the void that was formerly occupied by the commission that came from tribes to a governor's employee? How do you plan to tackle the skepticism?

Benge: I'm not under any illusions that I would alleviate all the skepticism.

The fact that we are dealing with 39 different Nations would suggest, and with so many thousands of people that have opinions and have history, history that we all know has not been good; I know that the trust is going to be slow to gain and I'm realistic about that.

I would try to remind those who might be skeptical, that there's more direct interaction, of the State of Oklahoma, the governor, under this arrangement, than I believe there ever

I realize some people might quibble and argue but that would be my perspective and what I would communicate with the Native Americans throughout our state.

MR: The museum there in Oklahoma City (the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum) has been struggling to find some completion. Where are you on that issue and do you have any insight for something on the horizon?

Benge: The governor has been very supportive. I can tell you since we've last been in session, she has been bringing it up in her conversations with the legislative leaders and I've been somewhat encouraged, cautiously optimistic, that there are additional options being discussed.

I think that there is a general desire to try to bring the project to closure. It may take a variation that we haven't seen yet. But I know there are some very serious discussions about it and the governor is really wanting to see it accomplished.

MR: Any final thoughts?

Benge: I really do feel that the relationship between the state and the tribes has improved over the last decade and I think that there's room for additional growth there.

Citizen, helps with Ebola relief efforts in Liberia



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sid Daniel Jr., is currently in Liberia to help with relief efforts against the Ebola virus.

Daniel Jr., fights deadly virus

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Almost everyone throughout the United States knows what the Ebola virus is and the panic it has been causing for nearly a year.

Although there is not a cure for the virus at the present time, one employee of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is assisting in the relief efforts.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service and Health Administrator of the Sapulpa Indian Health Clinic Sid Daniel Jr., Ph. D., will be taking a leave of absence from the MCN Department of Health to assist residents of Liberia with treatment and containment of the Ebola virus.

According to the World Health Organization website, Ebola is a there is a national emergency. Being on that team is one of the reasons why he was able to volunteer for the relief efforts in Liberia.

This is Daniel first official deployment outside of the country.

"I am excited about going over to Liberia," Daniel said. "I feel that we can show the world how great and strong the U.S. healthcare system is."

Daniel said that he will be stationed in Monrovia with the Monrovia Medical Unit. This specific unit is setup to help take care of the healthcare workers that are from the U.S. or other international groups that are fighting Ebola.

"We are actually taking care of the workers that may get infected by the virus since they are up close and personal with the Liberian patients," Daniel said.

Daniel was first deployed to Anniston, Ala., where he did a week of training.

"This is where we are getting

"I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO HELP PEOPLE IN ANYWAY I CAN. THAT IS WHY I JOINED THE PUBLIC

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITIZEN SID DANIEL JR.

severe, often fatal disease with a death rate of up to 90 percent that is marked by fever and severe internal bleeding, spread through contact with infected body fluids by a filovirus [Ebola virus], whose normal host species is unknown.

Daniel spoke about why he joined USPHS.

"I have always wanted to help people in anyway I can," Daniel said. "That is why I joined the Public Health Service. We do not help out just our own countries but other countries that need our help as well."

Daniel felt that the relief efforts are much needed.

"Liberia requested help from the United States to help get the virus under control," Daniel said. "I feel that it is a great humanitarian effort to be able to help the people of Liberia. It is definitely a need there."

When Daniel volunteered for the relief efforts, the Ebola virus was a hot topic because of the known cases here in the U.S. He feels that if he can help with the efforts in Liberia that can also help to stop the virus from coming to America.

"That was my way of saying, 'I am helping the Liberians but I am also helping my country as

well," Daniel said. Recently, Daniel has been a part of a rapid deployment force team, which is to help out when prepared and go through the procedures of handling the Ebola virus," Daniel said.

After that, he was sent to Liberia where they went through another week of training with the current unit that is stationed

"After that week is up, the current team will re-deploy back to the United States and our unit will take over," Daniel said. Daniel has been in Liberia

since March 5 and is scheduled to stay there for 60 days. He should return May 5.

"I know when I return, I will be in the re-deployment area for seven days for observation," Daniel said. "From what I read, after that, I will be self-monitoring for any fever or symptoms."

MCNDOH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith feels that it is a great honor to have an employee helping with the efforts.

"It is very exciting for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to have not only a citizen but one of our officers fighting the Ebola virus," Smith said. "He volunteered for this and that shows the courage that he has."

Daniel is not worried about going over to Liberia to help with the efforts.

"Our training for the relief efforts will be more than adequate to keep us healthy and safe," Daniel said.

MCN program wins landmark case

RiP helps get debt waived for citizen

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — When someone is released from prison, it can be difficult to accept the fact that the world has moved on without them. To go along with that, they commonly have to figure out how to establish a source of income for bills, court costs and fees.

However, what if they are handicapped and cannot work? How are they going to pay these expenses?

A Muscogee (Creek) citizen faced this issue recently, when she was released from



prison and was at risk for being sent back due to her inability to cover fees owed to the correctional system.

The citizen, with the help of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program, had to figure out a way to take care of the situation.

For confidentiality concerns, RIP requested that the client's name not be shared. She was convicted of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and faced fines over \$2,000.

She receives a check for her disability through Social Security but a majority, if not all of that goes to pay for her assisted living.

RiP filed a motion to dismiss the court cost and fines Feb. 4, 2015 based on her disability.

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma Staff Attorney Michael Radmilovich represented the citizen.

"Our client is mentally 918-652-2676.

handicapped," Radmilovich said. "With all of her income going towards her residential care, we needed to figure out some way to sort out this situation that she was in."

Radmilovich, explained the process when debts are not paid to the system.

"It is hard to stay current with that debt and most of them cannot do it," Radmilovich said. "If they get behind, the court will automatically issue a bench warrant."

The warrant is issued by a judge to authorize the arrest of a person that is being charged with some crime, misdemeanor or contempt.

client's constitutional rights had been violated. His defense was that,

fines. "The courts could have made this determination that our client could not pay or make payments," Radmilovich said.

due to her disability, she could

not get a job in order to pay her

The court ruled in the citizen's favor March 11.

"That debt has been erased," Radmilovich said.

RiP is pleased with this ruling. "We are hoping the courts will see that there are some ex-offenders who cannot pay their debt because of certain situations," Radmilovich said.

RiP mission's statement is to protect the public by offering quality re-entry services to Muscogee (Creek) citizens and to re-invest positive citizens back into our communities.

For more information, contact:

Tryout baseball game scheduled to choose tournament team players

Dog Soldiers/Media Release

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ Sports Ministry is seeking Native American applicants for the Diamond Showcase to be held May 22-24 at the McAlester High School baseball field.

An elite team will be formed from the showcase to compete in the Annual NABI/Arizona Diamondbacks National Native American Baseball Tournament.

This 'Diamond Showcase,' a Native American high school baseball skills evaluation and tournament, is open to any Native American High School baseball player in the United

The showcase will include a one-day evaluation, pool play and awards ceremony.

Awards will be given to the

outstanding defensive and offensive players, outstanding pitcher and overall MVP.

The players selected for the elite team will be notified by phone June 1.

Players may begin registering April 20 with a \$40 non-refundable fee. Custom-made hats and jerseys will be provided before pool-play begins.

Those who register must have participated in high school baseball this year.

After registration is complete, players will be evaluated May 22, followed by a draft onto respective teams that will begin poolplay May 23. The top teams will then be placed in a championship game.

An elite traveling team will be created from the players who participated in the Diamond Showcase and embark on an all expenses paid trip to Phoe-

nix. Players selected for the team will be notified May 25. Depending on the number of players that tryout, a second team may be formed.

"The showcase is not only a great opportunity for our kids to be seen by scouts, but also it gives them a chance to visit different places outside the State of Oklahoma," said Bryan Mc-Gertt, DS4JC Head Baseball Coach. "Also, we will utilize our relationships with college coaches throughout Oklahoma to maybe give a kid an opportunity of playing college level baseball."

For more information or to register, contact Lucas Taylor at: 918-652-5405 or Bryan Mc-Gertt at: 918-344-8472.

Those interested can also visit the website beginning April 20 at: www.dogsoldiers4jesuschrist.org.





LEADERSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Mvskoke Media/Christina Good Voice The Mvskoke Women's Leadership group held their fourth annual awards ceremony March 27 at the Perryman Ranch in Jenks, Okla.

yet there's only maybe four or five women named; when there are hundreds of them and we know that and what significant impact did they have on the Nation; we've still yet to find that," Giles said.

The women honored this year were:

Woman of the Year: Lydia (Proctor) Brown

Mother of the Year: Mona "Koko" Lowe

Humanitarian of the Year: Brenda Golden

Professional of the Year: Sherri Brown

Artists of the Year: Myrtle Denney and Lillian Thomas

College Student of the Year: Faith Harjo

High School Student of the Year: Jasmine Buckley

Middle School Student of the Year: Jaylen Bearpaw

Elementary Student of the Year: Katie Alexander

Giles expressed that MWL is open to anyone, but the award nominees had to be Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"It is not those women specifically that are citizens of the Nation, but those that work for the Nation that are in our communities, that are married into our communities; they are still a very big part of that. So, we want to keep fostering that relationship," Giles said.

For more information about MWL, call: 918-304-7802 or visit the MWL Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/Mvs-<u>kokeWomensLeadership</u>

Council House restoration project planned

Restoration project aimed to preserve historic landmark

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department is preparing for a restoration of the MCN Council House located in downtown Okmulgee, Okla., in order to preserve what was once the meeting site of the Nation's legislative branch, the House of Kings and the House of Warriors.

According to records obtained from CCA, in the 1920's the City of Okmulgee was petitioned to demolish the Council House in order to make room for an upscale hotel.

Entertainer and Cherokee Nation Citizen Will Rogers is credited for helping save the building by standing on the stone fence and speaking on its behalf.

"You can go to any town in the country and find a post office and a hotel, but there is only one town where you can find a Creek Council House," said Rogers.

The Council House has overcome many obstacles but is still standing in the same place as it was over 100 years ago.

MCN Council House History

1867: the Nation constructed a log cabin capitol building at the newly selected MCN national capitol of Okmulgee.

1878: a fire destroyed the Council House and the current stone structure was built in its place.

1906: The U.S. Department of the Interior removed the Council House from MCN possession.

1923: The Creek Indian Memorial Association established the Creek Council House Museum as an education center for Native American history.

OKMULGEE, Okla. —

New activities are available

at the Elderly Nutrition Pro-

grams for the communities of

Weleekta and Okemah, Okla.

Classes are part Zumba, chair

exercises, strength and 100

percent fun. The class offers

challenges with incentive gifts

presented at various intervals

The program is for diabetes

prevention and open to both

men and women. Classes run

thru August and the schedule

is as follows: May 8 in Ok-

mulgee for the Senior Games,

May 21, June 4, June 18, July

2, July 16, July 30, and Aug.

Weleetka classes meet from

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. and

Okemah class are held 12:45-

Come join us for fellow-

ship and health. Muscogee

(Creek) citizen Julie Bryant,

MS physical education, teach-

es the classes and her experi-

ence with persons of all ages

and fitness levels makes them

She has taught Zumba the

last two years at the Diabetes

Summit. For more informa-

tion, contact Bryant at: 918-

895-3492 or 615-473-6769.

interesting to everyone.

of the class.

1:30 p.m.



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Department is preparing for the restoration of the MCN Council House located in downtown Okmulgee, Okla.

1961: The National Park Service designated Council House as a National Historic Landmark.

1966: The Council House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1971: DOI sold the buildand the grounds to City of Okmulgee.

2010: MCN purchased ownership of the Council House from the City of Okmulgee.

2013: MCN purchased the artifacts on display in the Council House from the Creek Council House Museum Association (formerly CIMA) to keep them from being auctioned.

Preservation Efforts

CCA is currently working with the University of Tulsa Anthropology Department to conduct research on the Council House.

They are also working with

which is a minority owned firm for the restoration process.

"This is what we want to do. We're bringing the Council House back to its original state, so as it was built in 1878," said CCA Interim Director Justin Giles.

According to Giles, the purpose of this is to allow visitors to experience what the Council House was truly built for, as if there would be a legislative meeting about to take place.

The scene would be similar to the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Illinois, where people can visit and see what President Abraham Lincoln's home was like when he lived there and experience it like it was during that time in history.

A groundbreaking for the restoration project is expected to take place in the fall.

"In May, we are planning a Council House Day on the lawn to formally announce the project to the public with all our parties involved being there," Giles said.

For more information, con-Selser Schaefer Architects, tact CCA at: 918-549-2434.

Food safety classes



MFSI/Media Release

Food safety training classes will be held May 7 at the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative office located at 100 E. 7th St., Ste. 101 in downtown Okmulgee.

Two classes will be held on this date; the first at 10 a.m. and the second at 2 p.m. You will only need to attend one

This marks the fourth year that David Hogner, District Environmental Health Officer at Okmulgee Office of Environmental Health Services has held food safety training

Please RSVP to June Marshall at: 918-752-6139 or Dicey Barnett/Sue White at:

MFSI is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes.

MCN to host economic trading conference, Native Marketplace

ONABEN/Media Release

PORTLAND, Ore. ONABEN (Our Native American Business Network) announces the city for the annual Trading at the River Conference and Native Marketplace.

The conference, held for the last 11 years in Oregon and Washington, will be held May 6 in Tulsa, Okla.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host the conference and Native marketplace at their properties, River Spirit Casino and RiverWalk.

Trading at the River is a two-day event that focuses on content to facilitate growing strong economies in Indian Country.

ONABEN will also partner with the Cherokee Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office and Mvskoke Loan Fund to present Trading at the River. Anchoring the conference is a marketplace where Native artists, crafters and other vendors can showcase and sell their products and services.

For more information contact Selena Yokoyama at: 503-968-1500.

Naval academy provides **STEM training**



A U.S. Naval Academy midshipman teaches Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) experiments April 8 to students at Henryetta Middle School.

Muscogee (Creek) students benefit from technical education

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation in partnership with the Tulsa Regional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Alliance, Flight Night and Tulsa Public Schools helped bring the U.S. Naval Academy to the MCN boundaries for a STEM workshop.

A training session for teachers was held April 8 at Henryetta High School in Henryetta, and April 9 at the Wilson young age about careers in STEM areas.

"Frequently there's an underserved population in careers and people don't have the technical training to get were they need to in life," LaManna said. "So we're trying to start that education here at a young age versus them getting to college and having no background whatsoever in it."

MCN National Council Rep. and TRSA Advisory Council member Dode Barnett said that the training benefits the Nation.

"The teachers that were there today... those are all educators that are teaching our kids in our boundaries," Barnett said.

"THE THING ABOUT OUR STEM CAREERS IN OKLAHOMA, WE'RE BEHIND THE CURVE."

- MCN NATIONAL COUNCIL REP. AND TRSA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER **DODE BARNETT**

Teaching and Learning Academy in Tulsa, Okla.

HHS Principal Scott Bein said that USNA STEM Program representatives helped enlighten teachers on the curriculum including STEM activities in the classroom.

"It teaches teachers to be more hands on, more project based; to help students learn



The projects are used to better engage students while teaching them curriculum relevant to career fields, which heavily involve science and mathemat-

Bein said that teachers benefitted from the workshop because it gave them the opportunity to learn just as the "best and brightest" do at the academy in Annapolis.

Midshipmen guided students through experiments to excite them about opportunities in science and math.

USNA senior Emily LaManna said that she did not want to be an engineer when she began her education at the Naval Academy. Her interests guided her toward a major in chemis-

The USNA STEM program aims to teach students at a

According to the U.S. Department of Education, only 16 percent of high school seniors are proficient in mathematics and interested in a STEM career. DOE estimates that careers in fields such as software development will grow up to 32 percent and biomedical engineering will grow up to 62 percent by 2020.

U.S. President Barack Obama has requested that schools m a k e STEM education a priority and increase STEM teachers and STEM majors over the next decade. Among in-

dustrialized nations, the U.S. ranks 25th in math and 17th in science.

"The thing about our STEM careers in Oklahoma, we're behind the curve," Barnett said. "We import so many people to fulfill STEM jobs and it's because we're not educating our kids and not pushing them and encouraging them in those STEM areas in order to do the jobs that are in our own backvard."

Barnett believes that gearing students towards STEM learning and careers will better their future.

"Overall, if we can help boost the educational level of the schools, it's going to help our kids because it's helping all of the kids achieve higher goals and higher standards," Barnett

Diabetes prevention program comes to to be held at MFSI communities office Citizen/Media Release



OKMULGEE, Okla. —

class.

classes at MFSI.

918-756-5915.



May 9th NOON - 8:00PM

\$5 Match Play for every Diamond Club Member

Hot Seat Blitz Free Play Drawings

Ten (10) \$10 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings every 30 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM. Players CAN win more than once!

Hot Seat \$500 Drawings

Office of Public Caming

ty is regulated by the Muscogee (Creel

One (1) \$500 cash prize drawing every hour from NOON - 8:00PM.

Free Chocolate Bar for each Diamond Club member



\$9 Mother's Day Rock Creek Bar and Grill Special Chicken Cordon Bleu, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Salad and dressing, Dinner roll and Strawberry Pie

MoHer's DAY Special May 10th NOON - 5:00PM \$5 Match Play for every Diamond Club Member

Hot Seat Blitz Free Play Drawings

Five (5) \$10 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings every 30 minutes from NOON - 8:00PM.

Players CAN win more than once!

Hot Seat \$250 Drawings

One (1) \$250 cash prize drawing every hour from NOON - 5:00PM.

Free gift to each female Diamond Club member

3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net







Lighthorse officers graduate from law enforcement training



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department Deputy Chief Jerry Wittman (back) stands by Tribal Officers Trevor Gilroy (center) and Anthony Wind (front) who both graduated Feb. 20 from the Council on Law

Gilroy and Wind complete CLEET

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Two Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Police Department officers walked across the stage Feb. 20 during a graduation ceremony from the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training program

at the CLEET training facility in Ada, Okla.

The facility holds training for and supports Oklaho-

ma: state, county and local law enforcement agencies.

The education is provided to the cadets from this facility so they can become police officers.

The course takes 16 weeks and during this time, the cadets go over physical training, defensive tactics, law enforce-

ment drive training and other courses related to becoming police officers.

The Lighthorse officers who graduated from CLEET were Trevor Gilroy and Anthony Wind.

"It is basically hands-on training," Wind said. "Everything at CLEET."

Wind said that CLEET is not

huge accomplishment to make it through CLEET."

Wind mirrored those senti-

"That morning of our graduation, a group of us were together to talk about who did not make it through the course," Wind said. "I believe we felt that weight lifted off of our shoulders when we gradu-

LH Deputy Chief Jerry Wittman is proud "IT IS BASICALLY HANDS-ON TRAINING. of the officers **EVERYTHING THAT WE NEED TO LEARN TO GET US** for making it

> through. "The Lighthorse Department are proud of what

these officers have done," Wittman said. "CLEET is a tough course. You get pushed to your limits and beyond that everyday while you are there. For those two to make it, shows the character that they have."

For more information about CLEET visit: www.ok.gov/ cleet/.

Enforcement and Training program.

that we need to learn to get us ready for patrol, we get ready for

READY FOR PATROL - LIGHTHORSE POLICE OFFICER

DANIEL WIND

for everyone.

"Our class started in the high 80s for the number of people that were there," Wind said. "At the end of the class, we had a little bit over 60."

Gilroy talked about how he felt upon completing the pro-

"Relief," Gilroy said. "It was a

MCN gets Oklahoma Spirit Award

Five Tribes honored for bringing Red Cross to state

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Since 1906, the American Red Cross has assisted U.S. citizens through disaster relief aid. In the early days, what would become the Oklahoma division of the organization was known as the Indian Territory Branch Red Cross since the area had not undergone statehood.

The Five Civilized Tribes, who were relocated to the area from the Southeast by the federal government, were responsible for bringing the Red Cross into Indian Territory. It is because of this

that the FCT were recognized with the Oklahoma Spirit Award by the Red Cross April 9, at the annual Rescue Gala Fundraiser the Cox Business Center Grand Ballroom in Tulsa.

According to the American Red Cross website, the award recognizes those who make Oklahoma a better place for all.

The event chairperson for the gala, Karen Bieligk spoke about the award.

"It is a huge honor to be able to coordinate the event for this evening," Bieligk said. "I get to see this award go to the Five Civilized Tribes."

Bieligk spoke about how Oklahoma tribes were historically not acknowledged for their hard

"Now they are getting recognized and they deserve everything that goes along with this honor and reward," Bieligk

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said that the MCN was one, if not the first tribe to have a Red Cross chapter.

"This honor says a lot about Muscogee people," Tiger said. "What we do, traditionally and culturally, is to help each other during a time of need."

> Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Emergency Manager Jeff Hanson spoke on behalf of the tribes. "It is a proud

moment knowing that all of our tribes have gone through so much, and we persevered and now because of our help, we are getting recognized for what we have done and are continuing to do," Hanson said.

Tiger feels that this state owes the tribes a big 'thank you' for what they have done.

"It has been documented that a lot of the tribes have been at the forefront in helping the non-Natives with food, clothing and shelter," Tiger said.

Bieligk wants non-Natives to understand that without the tribes, there would be no American Red Cross in Oklahoma.

"This is a huge deal. Without the tribes, all of this would not be going on here tonight," Bieligk said.

For more information on the American Red Cross visit: www. redcross.org.

Lighthorse Explorer of the Month: Katcv Watson



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Katcv Watson as the April Explorer of the Month.

Citizen learns respect through program

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Explorers Program announced Katcy Watson as the April Explorer of the Month.

Watson is a 16 year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen from Broken Arrow, Okla., and a junior at Broken Arrow High School.

He has been involved with the program for two years.

Watson recalled the first trip he made with the program

when the Explorers traveled to visit the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation law enforcement.

"We went to see how their fire department and their police department worked," Watson said.

This opportunity allowed Watson to meet with those who have similar interests from other tribes.

"I learned how to respect other people and what they do, and other people's cultures," Watson

Watson shared what this experience taught him.

"Also, I kind of learned how they work as a team; how this whole police unit and fire department are almost like a brotherhood," Watson said.

He also spoke about a person who he looks up to.

"My youth pastor and advisor, Daniel Wind," Watson said. "He teaches other kids right from wrong in a religious way and he's also a police officer so he also teaches right from wrong in general."

The program is for young people with an interest in law enforcement as a possible career.

"It's a hands on program where it'll build you up if you have an intention of going into

law enforcement," Watson said. Watson's future plans after graduation are to live and make money, then go to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., or the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla., to study law enforcement.

Watson is also involved in the Native American Student Association at Broken Arrow High School.

Outside of the Explorers Program and school, Watson enjoys playing the guitar, attending stompdances and hanging out with the friends he has made through the Explorers.

Watson is a member of the Tiger Clan and Arbeka Ceremonial Ground and the son of Nancy Harjo-Watson and Kevin Watson of Broken Arrow, Okla.

MCN hosts storm spotter training



Recognizing, understanding severe weather

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Emergency Management Team in collaboration with the: Okmulgee County, City of Okmulgee and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology Emergency Management Teams, held the 7th Annual National Weather Service Storm Spotter Training March 6 at the MCN Tribal Complex Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

"Being able to work together and have the collaboration that we do puts the citizens just a whole lot safer," said MCN Emergency Management Supervisor James Nichols.

The mission of the MCN Office of Emergency Management is to minimize the effects of attacks, technological and natural disasters upon the MCN and Oklahoma by preparing, implementing and exercising preparedness plans, assisting local government subdivisions with training for and mitigation of disasters and by coordinating actual disaster response/recovery operations.

Local law enforcements and fire departments along with community members gathered to watch a presentation by Ed Calianese, NWS Tulsa Office Warning Coordination Meteorologist. "The National Weather Ser-

vice talks about different cloud formations; different weather scenarios," Nichols said. The NWS Tulsa office serves

25 counties in eastern Oklahoma and seven in northwest Arkansas.

According to his presentation, the purpose of the training is to inform people how they can maintain situational awareness before or during severe weather events and understand the structure of storms and various other related features in the field.

"It's building your knowledge database about serve weather, recognizing severe storms and severe storm processes," Calianese said.

The presentation also helped people learn how to safely observe these features from the proper vantage point and to understand the role of the spotter in the impact based warnings and the importance of relaying accurate reports to the NWS.

"The main purpose is for anybody that wants to have more knowledge about what springtime storms are about," Nichols said. "It also is for public law enforcement agencies, fire departments that are actually out in the field storm spotting so they can relay back to the National Weather Service or their local emergency management agencies."

The trainings are open to everyone and two hours of Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training credit is provided for law enforcement agencies.

For more information, contact MCN Emergency Management at: 918-732-7891.

Tiger issues statements regarding vetoes of Council legislation



Muscogee (CREEK) Nation

April 10, 2015

Thomas Yahola Honorable Speake Muscogee (Creek) National Council Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Speaker Yahola:

I am returning NCA 15-037 herewith:

A MESSAGE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF RETURNING NCA 15-037 TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL UNSIGNED

In accordance with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, I, George Tiger, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, do hereby return NCA 15-037 "A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO GRANT THORNTON LLP TO FACILITATE THE FORENSIC AUDIT" unsigned.

NCA 15-037 is being returned unsigned due to the process for the audit that began with no funds and by NCR 14-004 that is limited to the National Council's business and doesn't have authority in the Executive Branch or Nation's governmental business. In the spirit of cooperation my office has honored all requests with the exception of emails on recommendation of the Attorney General. The Nation is mandated by federal, state and tribal laws to protect our citizens personal

Furthermore, I welcomed the audit openly in a National Council meeting and still do, I will not sign legislation that appropriates for the audit when the governmental process was not followed as outlined in the Nation's Constitution which as elected officials we took an oath to uphold. Even without my signature this legislation will become law, however, without an updated report on the ongoing audit or a comprehensive detailed invoice of services provided.

For the reasons outlined above, NCA 15-037 is hereby returned unsigned.

DATED: April 10, 2015



NCA 15-037

CLASSIFICATION: #37. TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO GRANT THORNTON LLP TO FACILITATE THE FORENSIC AUDIT

Be it enacted by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

SECTION ONE. <u>NEW LAW</u>. The following new Law is hereby enacted:

Section 1-101. Findings. The National Council finds that:

On August 23, 2014, the National Council enacted NCR 14-004, which authorized the National Council to hire Grant Thornton LLP to perform the forensic audit upon the finances of the National Council, the Nation's Permanent Fund, the Office of the Controller, all tribal funds, the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, the Office of the Principal Chief, and the Office of the Second Chief.

Per the agreement, there is a need to appropriate funds in the amount of Two Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight and 79/100 Dollars (\$267,928.79) to facilitate the forensic audit for services rendered to date.

SECTION TWO. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to Grant Thornton LLP to facilitate the forensic audit for services rendered to date

SECTION THREE. APPROPRIATION. The sum of Two Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight and 79/100 Dollars (\$267,928.79) is hereby appropriated from the Interest on Permanent Fund Account for the implementation of this Act. All unexpended funds appropriated by implementation of this Act shall be returned to the Tribal Treasury and shall be available for future appropriation by the National Council.

SECTION FOUR. AUTHORIZATION. The National Council hereby authorizes the Principal Chief or his designee to expend the sum of Two Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight and 79/100 Dollars (\$267,928.79) from the Interest on Permanent Fund Account to Grant Thornton LLP, 33911 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-3900 to facilitate the forensic audit.

ENACTED by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on this <u>28th</u> day of <u>March</u>, <u>2015</u>.

Page 2 of 2 NCA 15-037

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hereto attached his signature.

> Thomas Yahola, Speaker **National Council** Muscogee (Creek) Nation

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council comprised of Sixteen members with <u>Fifteen</u> members attending this meeting on the <u>28th</u> day of <u>March</u>, 2015 and that the above is in conformity with the provisions therein adopted by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 against, and that said Law has not been rescinded or amended in any way and the above is the signature of the Speaker of the National Council.

> Kristie A. Sewell, Recording Secretary Muscogee (Creek) National Council

APPROVAL

I, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, hereby affix my signature on this , 2015 to the above Law, NCA 15-037 authorizing it to become a Law under Article VI., Section VI., of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

> George Tiger, Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Muscogee (CREEK) Nation

Executive Office

April 10, 2015

Thomas Yahola Honorable Speaker Muscogee (Creek) National Council Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Speaker Yahola:

I am returning NCA 15-058 herewith:

A MESSAGE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF RETURNING NCA 15-058 TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AS A VETO WITH OBJECTIONS

In accordance with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, I, George Tiger, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, do hereby return NCA 15-058 "A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA 14-158 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROVING THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATIONS)" as VETOED with the following objection:

OBJECTION ONE: Under Section 3(a) of Article V of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, "the Principal Chief shall prepare the annual budget request and supplements thereto." Thus, the Constitution clearly establishes that the preparation of the budget is an executive function specifically bestowed in the Office of the Principal Chief. The Principal Chief must prepare the annual budget and any supplements to the budget request in accordance with the needs of the Nation and after careful deliberation with department staff to accurately identify necessary funding priorities. While the National Council has the authority to either approve or disapprove a budget request by the Principal Chief, there is no constitutional authority delegated to the National Council to make any adjustments to the budget that interferes with the executive function of preparing the budget and any supplements to the budget. The Nation's Supreme Court has already ruled that the Executive Branch of the Nation is

constitutionally responsible for the preparation and administration of the Nation's annual budget, and the National Council's responsibility to the annual budget is to advise and consent---but that "this advice and consent is not to be construed as authorizing the National Council to change line items or [to] alter the Budget process for their own purposes." Ellis v. Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Supreme Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, SC 06-07.

OBJECTION TWO: NCA 15-058 amends the previously approved comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2015 by adjusting the definition of a minor modification for Fixed Budget type funds to line item adjustments which do not exceed a cumulative annual total of 10% (reduced from 20%) of the total approved budget per fund within a given program. Likewise, the definition of a major modification for Fixed Budget type funds is line item adjustments where cumulative adjustments exceed 10% (reduced from 20%) of the total approved program budget per fund. Major modifications shall require approval of the appropriate funding agency and submitted through the Office of the Principal Chief to the National Council for approval. Finally, NCA 15-058 provides that budget modifications do not authorize movement of resources from one program to another.

Further, the amendments in NCA 15-058 is an intrusion on the constitutional authority of the Principal Chief to make appropriate budget modifications based on the Chief's previous determination that minor modifications for Fixed Budget type funds is more appropriately capped at 20%. Also, the amendments in NCA 15-058 unreasonably restricts the ability of the Principal Chief from moving funds within a given department and to laterally move Tribal Funds between programs within a department based on the Principal Chief's determination of funding needs in any given department. These amendments were not prepared and submitted by the Principal Chief to the National Council for consideration and approval, neither was there any discussion or input from the Office of the Controller. The National Council does not have the authority to unilaterally make changes to the budget decisions that, under the Nation's

For the reasons outlined above, NCA 15-058 is hereby returned as VETOED.

George Tiger Principal Chief **DATED: April 10, 2015**



CLASSIFICATION: #37. TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA 14-158 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROVING THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND PROVIDING FOR

Be it Enacted by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

SECTION ONE. <u>AMENDMENT</u>. Section Four of NCA 14-158 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION FOUR. EXPENDITURE APPROPRIATIONS. The following appropriations of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are hereby approved to be expended in accordance with the Comprehensive Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2015, and any applicable funding agreement rules and regulations.

DEPARTMENT	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Executive Branch	9,614,260
Office of the Treasury	3,231,133
Office of the Administration	8,696,885
Education, Employment & Training	25,149,109
Community and Human Services	32,265,307
Interior Affairs	27,220,046
Department of Justice	4,330,901
Legislative Branch	2,709,861
Judicial Branch	2,183,162
Special Appropriations	8,134,912
Independent Agencies	24,193,329

Page 2 of 4 NCA 15-058

Department of Health

125,112,315

Department of Housing

18,588,735

Total Expenditure Appropriations 291,429,955

Section 4-101. Budget Modification Authorization and Limitations. Total Appropriations in this law may not be modified or changed except as approved by the National Council or within the following limitations:

- A. Fixed Budgets. Special Revenue Fund budgets, Tribal Fund Budgets, and Expendable Trust Fund budgets appropriated under this ordinance for programs established by law, will be fixed with respect to dollar amounts appropriated and authorized for expenditure by this legislation.
 - Minor Modifications. Minor modifications for Fixed Budget type funds are defined as line item adjustments which do not exceed a cumulative annual total of 2910% of the total approved budget per fund within a given program, and do not increase the approved amount of the approved program budget. Minor modifications for tribally funded fixed budgets will be prepared by the appropriate Management Staff and submitted to the Office of the Treasury for approval by the Controller and implementation by the Budget Office.
 - 2. Major Modifications. Major modifications for the Fixed Budget type are defined as line item adjustments where such cumulative adjustments exceed 2010% of the total approved program budget per fund, or increases in the amount of the total approved program budget per fund. Major modifications shall require approval of the appropriate funding agency, and will further require that the adjusted budget be prepared by the appropriate Management Staff and submitted through the Office of the Principal Chief to the National Council for approval.
 - 3. Realignment of Budget. Recognizing that budgets are based on best estimates of expenditure, and recognizing that there are special, catastrophic, and emergency events that put both lives and property at risk, the National Council hereby authorizes the Principal Chief to approve the movement of funds within a given department and to laterally move Tribal Funds between programs within that department to best serve the needs of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Page 3 of 4 NCA 15-058

<u>Section 4-102. Limitations: Budget modifications do not authorize movement of resources from one program to another.</u>

- B. Flexible Budgets. Program Income budgets and Internal Service Fund budgets are based on estimates only and will be flexible with respect to availability of funds and modified as required for the generation of income. Such modifications shall be restricted to ensure that,no deficit is incurred as a result of expenditures exceeding any such generated revenues.
- C. Proprietary Budget. Proprietary budgets contained within this legislation are of enterprise/economic resources and shall be modified based upon the needs and/or demands of the respective enterprise/economic entity, and by Resolution of the appropriate board or governing body.

SECTION TWO. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>. This Act shall become effective immediately upon proper approval and execution in accordance with the requirements of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution.

ENACTED by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on this 28th day of March, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hereto attached his signature.

Thomas Yahola, Speaker National Council Muscogee (Creek) Nation

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council comprised of Sixteen members with <u>Fifteen</u> members attending this meeting on the <u>28th</u> day of <u>March</u>, <u>2015</u> and that the above is in conformity with the provisions therein adopted by a vote of <u>14</u> in favor, <u>0</u> against, and that said Law has not been rescinded or amended in any way and the above is the signature of the Speaker of the National Council.

Kristie A. Sewell, Recording Secretary Muscogee (Creek) National Council

APPROVAL

I, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, hereby affix my signature on this day of _____, 2015 to the above Law, NCA 15-058 authorizing it to become a Law under Article VI., Section VI., of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

George Tiger, Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Muscogee (CREEK) Nation

Executive Office April 10, 2015

Dear Speaker Yahola:

I am returning NCA 15-063 herewith:

A MESSAGE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF RETURNING NCA 15-063 TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AS A VETO WITH OBJECTIONS

In accordance with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, I, George Tiger, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, do hereby return NCA 15-063 "A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 37, CHAPTER 3, SUBCHAPTER 5, ENTITLED, 'EMPLOYEE PROTECTION" as VETOED with the following objection:

OBJECTION ONE: The amendment in NCA 15-063 to Title 37, § 3-501.D expanding on the definition of "illegal motive" to include situations where any employee may provide information or inducing another to provide information to "Duly Elected Principal Chief, Duly Elected Second Chief, and National Council and National Council Committees" is problematic for several reasons. First, the current system of allowing an employee to provide information or inducing another to provide information to the Office of the Attorney General regarding possible illegal, unethical, dishonest or improper conduct by another employee has not been established as insufficient. There have been no findings by the National Council that have been brought to my attention showing that the Office of the Attorney General is not able to handle or process information brought by employees regarding the improper conduct of other employees.

OBJECTION TWO: It is not in the best interests of the Nation employees for the elected officials of the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to interject themselves in the process of hearing employee complaints especially when the current law already sets up appropriate channels for employees to take advantage of without fear of retaliation. The way it is written, the amendment in NCA 15-063 seems to be the National Council's attempt at getting Executive Branch employees to provide information to the National Council and National Council Committees about matters that could be resolved within the Executive Branch. This current administration has addressed employees concerns in accordance with the policy and procedures. Also, any attempt by one branch of government from intruding on the duties and responsibilities of personnel actions and decision by another branch of government could be seen as violating the separation of powers principle.

For the reasons outlined above, NCA 15-063 is hereby returned as VETOED.



George Tiger Principal Chief

DATED: April 10, 2015



NCA 15-063

CLASSIFICATION: #37. TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING MCNCA TITLE 37, CHAPTER 3, SUBCHAPTER 5, ENTITLED, "EMPLOYEE PROTECTION"

Be it enacted by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation:

SECTION ONE. AMENDMENT. These amendments shall be codified in Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 5 of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; provided that for purposes of codification of said amendment and its inclusion in pocket parts of the Code of Laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Codification Committee is hereby authorized: (1) to approve any changes related to the manner in which sections, articles, chapters and sub-chapters are designated consistent with the format in the Code of Laws published in 2010 by West Publishing Company; (2) to include footnoted references to the legislative history in said pocket parts to the Code of Laws and (3) to note in said pocket parts any editorial correction of minor clerical or grammatical errors in the following amendment, without further National Council approval:

SECTION TWO. AMENDMENT. MCNCA Title 37, §3-501. C. and D. are hereby amended to read as follows:

- C. "Employee" shall be interpreted to include, without limitation, all officers (with the exception of elected officials) and employees of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; all managers and employees of chartered communities, Muscogee (Creek) Nation binge halle Casinos and smoke shops; and officers and employees of all Muscogee (Creek) Nation governmental agencies, branches, boards, committees, entities or related subdivisions, including the Creek Nation Housing Authority, and thereof, whether now in existence or to exist in the future. The Creek Nation Housing Authority Office of Personnel shall implement this subchapter under the direction of the Creek Nation Personnel Office.
 - D. "Illegal motive" shall be interpreted to include the following:
 - An intention to retaliate or take reprisal against an employee for providing information or inducing another to provide information to the office of the Attorney General, <u>Duly Elected Principal Chief</u>, <u>Duly Elected Second Chief</u>, <u>and National Council and National Council Committees</u> of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, regarding

Page 2 of 4 NCA 15-063

any possible illegal, unethical, dishonest or improper conduct by any other employee;

 An intention to retaliate or take reprisal against an employee for providing information or inducing another to provide information to the office of the Attorney General, <u>Duly Elected Principal Chief,</u> <u>Duly Elected Second Chief, and National Council and National <u>Council Committees</u> of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, regarding any adverse actions which have been taken in reprisal or retaliation
</u>

for any action protected under this subchapter; or
3. An intention to interfere with an employee's exercise of any other right granted by this subchapter, or by any other statute of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, whether present or future.

SECTION THREE. <u>AMENDMENT.</u> MCNCA Title 37, §3-502. is hereby amended to read as follows:

§3-502. Other employee rights

In addition to the employee rights provided by Title 37, §3-501, employees shall have the following rights pursuant to this subchapter;

- A. The right to call any illegal, unethical, dishonest, or improper acts of another employee to the atténtion of a supervisor;
- B. The right to call any dangerous working condition to the attention of a supervisor, or to request an inspection of a dangerous working condition; provided, that this subsection shall not be construed to require such an inspection to be automatically granted upon request:
- C. Making statements or testifying or agreeing to do so voluntarily or in response to a subpoena, in any informal or formal adjudicatory proceeding, informal conference proceeding, rulemaking proceeding, investigation or inspection by a governmental agency or body of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, of judicial proceeding; or
- D. The right to exercise free speech at any public meeting attended or the right to sign a petition on employee's own personal time.
- **E.** Exercising rights granted under this subchapter on behalf of another employee.

SECTION FOUR. AMENDMENT. MCNCA Title 37, §3-507. B. shall be amended to read as follows:

Page 3 of 4 NCA 15-063

B. Where to file. The employee or representative may shall file the application for review at the Office of Personnel Human Resource Management and Personnel Services, which shall maintain a log of all filings and provide copy of application for review and stamp "received" with signature of recipient.

SECTION FIVE. AMENDMENT. MCNCA Title 37, §3-513. G. shall be amended to read as follows:

G. To hire a recording secretary whose compensation shall be forty-five dollars (\$45) a meeting determined by members of the Commission. The Secretary shall not be an employee of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Secretary shall provide the equipment necessary for the recording/transcribing of minutes of the Commission meetings.

SECTION SIX. Any provision within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated there appears the term "Office of Personnel," the same shall be construed to mean, and apply to the created office of "Human Resource Management and Personnel Services" per the Organization of the Executive Office of the Principal Chief.

SECTION SEVEN. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>. This Act shall become effective immediately upon proper approval and execution in accordance with the requirements of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution.

ENACTED by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council on this <u>28th</u> day of <u>March, 2015</u>.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council has hereto attached his signature.

Thomas Yahola, Speaker National Council Muscogee (Creek) Nation

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is a true extract from the minutes of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council comprised of Sixteen members with <u>Fifteen</u> members attending this meeting on the <u>28th</u> day of <u>March</u>, <u>2015</u> and that the above is in conformity with the provisions therein adopted by a vote of <u>14</u> in favor, <u>0</u> against, and that said Law has not been rescinded or amended in any way and the above is the signature of the Speaker of the National Council.

Kristie A. Sewell, Recording Secretary Muscogee (Creek) National Council

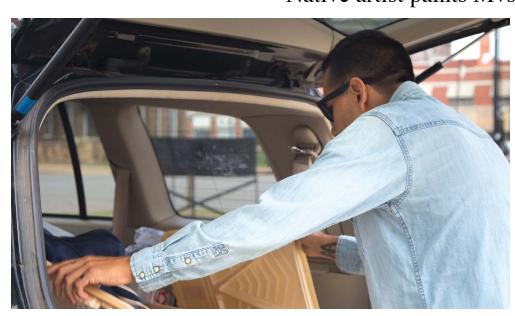
APPROVAL

I, the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, hereby affix my signature on this ____ day of ____, 2015 to the above Law, NCA 15-063 authorizing it to become a Law under Article VI., Section VI., of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

George Tiger, Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation

DOWNTOWN OKMULGEE RECEIVES SPLASH OF COLOR

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist
Native artist paints Mvskoke-themed mural







"I have done Murals all over: Miami, New York, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Phoenix, L.A. Portland, Oregon, Melbourne, Austrialia, Oklahoma..."







"The thing about doing a mural is it places you in a spot for a while and you get to know the area and the atmosphere and the people around there, the community."



OKMULGEE, Okla. — The sun shines brightly, as Osage/Muscogee (Creek)/ Cherokee artist Yatika Starr Fields made sweeping motions to apply bright streaks of spray paint.

These streaks are part of a 45-foot by 15-foot mural near the MCN Council House in Downtown Okmulgee sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our department to continue our mission of cultural sharing and education," CCA Special Project Coordinator Christopher Azbell said.

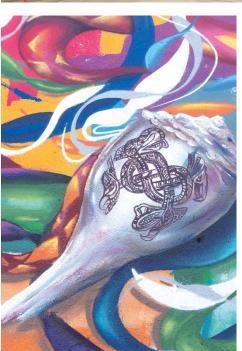
The artwork incorporated Mvskoke culture and history in an effort to revitalize the downtown area with the history of Okmulgee. The mural features ballsticks, the Sacred Fire and Mississippian symbols with ribbons woven throughout. Fields describes it as Mvskoke surrealism.











"I am kind of just taking out what's here; what's got us here in symbolic terms, in beauty and symbolism and simplicity in a way and also that which will take us to the next; further in a good spirit in a good place for the younger generation," Fields said.

Fields estimated he would log 100 hours of labor over six days to complete the project.

"The thing about doing a mural is that it places you in spot for a while and you get to know the area and the atmosphere and the people around there; the community," Fields said.

Fields believes his Native American heritage has influenced his work greatly and is most prominently seen in his use of color.

"I think it's been, you know; even the regalia when we move to the ribbons in sync with the drum to all the colors we wear. Breaking it down and meshing it in to something wild; to a landscape without people but just the motion," Fields said.









"What better way to beautify a city than to bring in beautiful art that has historic, cultural and artistic meaning," — Justin Giles, CCA.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

DAVID BIRDCREEK



TULSA, Okla. — David Wayne 'Chebon' Birdcreek, a resident of Henryetta, passed away April 1, 2015 in Tulsa at the age of 48. He was born Aug. 13, 1966 in Claremore, Okla., to Edmond Birdcreek and Helen

Chebon was preceded in death by his mother, Helen But-

He is survived by his: brothers, Lex Birdcreek and wife Janet of Henryetta, Kenneth Birdcreek of Henryetta and Lorne Birdcreek of Henryetta; sisters, Gina Burgess and husband Sammy Hill of Bristow, Okla., Shana Butler of Henryetta and Vicki Hester husband Ray of Tulsa; father, Edmond Birdcreek and wife Hettie of Henryetta; step father, David Butler of Henryetta as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

A wake service was scheduled for April 3 at Little Cussetah Indian Methodist Church, north of Henryetta.

A funeral was scheduled for April 4, 2015 at Little Cussetah Indian Methodist Church. Interment followed at the Harjo Family Cemetery under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

AGNES LEWIS SWAIN

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Fullblooded Muscogee (Creek) citizen Agnes Lewis Swain of Cleves, Ohio, passed away April 3, 2015 at the age of 85.

She was born Dec. 23, 1929 in Henryetta to Rev. David B. Lewis and Sally Jacobs Lewis.

Agnes is survived by her: daughters, Sophia Hester and Michael Peefer of Ohio, Pat Tah-bone and George D. Tah-bone Jr. of Oklahoma; granddaughters, Stephanie Tah-bone Hamilton and Hamilton Thomas of Oklahoma, Amber Tahbone Pritchett of Oklahoma, Amanda Shawnee Hester of Ohio, April Semihoye Hester of Ohio, Amie Puce-Howie Tah-bone of Oklahoma and Michelle Hester of Ohio; grandsons, Sevon Mekko-Hvtke Tah-bone of Oklahoma, Joshua Yvhvlane Swain-Hester and Bethany of Indiana and Brandon Hester of Ohio; greatgranddaughters, Autumn Tahbone of Oklahoma and Isabella Crail of Ohio; great-grandsons, Nathan Tah-bone of Oklahoma and Aaron Tah-bone Kaulay of Oklahoma and sister, Marian Haynes of Oklahoma.

She was preceded in death by her: parents; brother, David Lewis Jr.; son-in-law, Mark C. Hester of Ohio and grandsons, Michael John Tah-bone of Oklahoma and Jamey Justin Dimasi of Ohio, a U.S. Army Ranger sergeant.

GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR MAY 2

YEAGER, Okla. — Yeager Mission Indian Methodist Church has set a gospel singing for May 2 starting at 7 p.m.

For more information call: 405-712-2637.

INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR MAY 9

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church has set an Indian Taco Sale for May 9 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 8815 E. 101st St., Tulsa,

Tacos are \$7 and include a cup of tea.

INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR MAY 16

SAPULPA, Okla. — Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church has set and Indian taco fund-raiser for May 16 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 17610 S. Hickory St., Sapulpa, OK.

Adult meals will cost \$8, children \$4 and proceeds will go towards the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference apportionment expenses.

For more information contact June at: 918-752-6139.

'Apple Indian' book by citizen now available

Jack O'Field/Author Release

'Apple Indian,' a somewhat touchy account of those claiming a Native American heritage such as myself. But as a man uniquely qualified in the recognition of both the noble and derogatory aspects of the term, I saw the need for the reexamination of its implied definition.

Specifically, 'Apple Indian' is a book about Indians and Indian issues. It also allows insight of the who, what, when, where, how, and why of the personal accounting of 62 years of a Native American living in a white society and its resulting effects on my life.

I wish to take this opportunity in advance to apologize to anyone who may be offended by the content of this book. As I profess a strong unequivocal position in the fact I have not one prejudicial, racist, or bigoted bone in my body only reiterates my sincere desire for apology of controversial content within these pages.

Outskirts Press, my primary publisher, has their own bookstore and offers a discounted price through their company. Their web address is: https://outskirtspress.com/ bookstore.

4-H taking trip applications

MCN 4-H/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program will take their annual summer trip July 7-12 to Horseshoe Bend, Ala., Gulfport, Miss., and Duck Commander in Monroe, La.

The trip is open to all MCN 4-H participants 14-years-old and up and the deadline to apply is May 15.

For more information contact MCN 4-H Program Manager Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628 or by email at: whaltom@mcn-nsn.gov.

Myskoke Language Preservation Program puzzle Insects CANV - Fly OKYEHA — Mosquito

LOCV POSE — Ladybug TVPVSSVNV — Dragonfly **TVFFOLOPE** — Butterfly **KATKAKV** — Beetle TVKOCA — Ant

TVFFO — Grasshopper TOESSELOKV — Caterpillar

FOCATE — Wasp FO — Bee

ESTE NEKRICV ENRAKKO — Praying Mantis **KOLEPPA** — Firefly **CUNTV** — Worm LVPV — Snail **SUWESUWE** — Locust **NERE TVFFOLOPV** — Moth NAORKUCE — Cockroach LESOLKV — Centipede CVLOTKV — Cricket

VCOKRVNWV — Spider 0



 Saturday, June 27 @ 10 a.m. Downtown Okmulgee. The parade will follow a route along Main Street (6th) passing directly in front of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House. THEME: We Are Mvskoke EVERYONE WELCOME! Enter a float advertising your company. All MCN departments, organizations, communities, churches & ceremonial grounds are encouraged to enter. 		
PLEASE CHECK ONE. MCN Department	Organization Name	
Community, Church, Ceremonial Ground	Contact	
Dignitary (Tribal Leader, Royalty, National Council, State Delegate)	Phone	
Other. Please specify.	PLEASE CHECK ONE.	
PLEASE CHECK ONE.	Walking Motorcycle Group	
Contestant Recognition Only	Driving Horseback	
nclude a brief statement that will be used as an introduction during the parade.		
DIGNITARY		

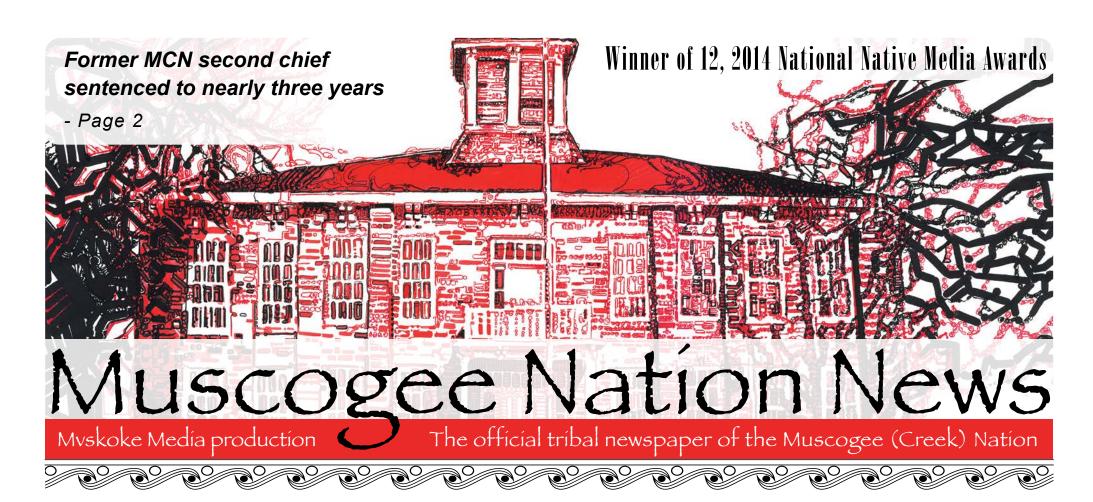
Name

Tribe

Title

Application DEADLINE: Friday, June 19, 4:00 PM For more information, contact Molly Moore. 918.732.7983 or 918.752.8750





CMN celebrates seventh graduation

Ceremony celebrates student accomplishments

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — After semesters of classes, studying long hours, pulling all-nighters and with the support of family and friends, 22 graduates shook the college president's hand, received their degrees and moved their tassels.

The College of the Muscogee Nation held a commencement ceremony April 24 for the college's 2015 graduating class at the CMN Student Center in Okmulgee, Okla.

"CMN appreciates the regents, faculty, and staff who have supported the success of our graduates. We wish the students the best in their future endeavors," CMN President Robert Bible

CMN Board of Regents Chair Ramona Mason provided words of encouragement to the graduates.

"The things that you have done, that you have worked for to be here today wearing that gown and getting your diploma... Thank



The College of the Muscogee Nation held a commencement ceremony April 24 for the college's 2015 graduating class at the CMN Student Center in Okmulgee, Okla.

you for choosing our school," Mason said.

This was the seventh graduating class from CMN but it was the first to celebrate it in the Student Center building, which officially opened Jan 16.

Each year, the faculty selects a student to address the attendees and speak on behalf of the graduating class.

This year's student respondent was Codie Artussee.

"I know at times during our education we had some rough spots. We did not receive these degrees without assistance." Artussee said.

MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks was the keynote speaker.

"First and foremost, I congratulate each and everyone of you individually for your accomplishments on graduating today," Hicks said.

Hicks shared his educational Graduation ~ 7

journey over the years followed by the graduation announcements. Bible conferred the degrees.

According to the website, CMN is the institution of higher education for MCN emphasizing Native culture, values and selfdetermination.

For more information contact CMN at: 918-549-2800 or visit them online at: www.mvsktc.org.

May 15, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 10 "Ke Hvse" Mulberry Month



Council overrides two vetoes during quarterly session

Tiger delivers quarterly report

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. - A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held April 25 at the Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Ok-

The session started with a quarterly report from MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

The Council started their business by voting to override vetoes on:

• NCA 15-058 Amending NCA 14-158 (a law of the MCN approving the comprehensive annual budget for fiscal year 2015 and providing for appropriations.) The override passed 14-1 with Rep. Johnnie Greene voting against it.

The bill amends the legislation to decrease the allowable line item budget changes from a maximum of 20 percent down to 10 percent without the approval of the Council and retracts the ability of the principal chief to move resources from one program to another.

Tiger's veto objections can be viewed on page nine of the 'Muscogee Nation News' May 1 edition.

• NCA 15-063 Amending MCN Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 5, titled, 'Employee Protection.' The override passed 13-2 with Reps. Shirlene Ade and Greene voting against it.

The bill adds MCN casino employees to the list of those employed by MCN protected from retaliation when trying to report illegal, unethical, dishonest or improper acts, dangerous working condi-

Council - 9

MCN announces Festival entertainment

Entertainment to include Native, country, mo-town and R&B artists.

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger announced the 41st annual MCN Festival entertainment April 30 during a news conference at the Myskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

This year's line up features country, mo-town and rhythm and blues artists consisting of: Little Texas, Sawyer Brown, A Tribe Called Red, The Commodores and Kool & The Gang.

The Festival will kick off June 25 with a stompdance in the evening at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex. Other events including sporting tournaments and a scholarship pageant will be



Jessica McBride/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger announces the 2015 MCN Festival entertainment line-up during a news conference April 30 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

held on weekends in June leading up to the stompdance.

A majority of the festivities commence June 26, including golf and softball tournaments, the rodeo as well as artistic and cultural events.

According to a media release,

the Festival was the vision of MCN Principal Chief Claude Cox in 1974, when Tiger worked as a softball tournament coordinator.

"I have watched it grow and become one of the top premier festivals in Indian Country, boasting more than 25 events,"

Tiger said.

Tiger said that since 2012, each Festival has broken attendance records.

"We're hoping that this year we'll also break another record," Tiger said.

The entire Festival will be held on the 55-acre Claude A. Cox Omniplex and the surrounding Okmulgee area, with the exception of the MCN Bass Classic set for June 6 at Lake Eufaula.

For the first time, the Miss MCN Scholarship Pageant, which is also set for June 6, will be held in Okmulgee instead of Tulsa, Okla.

This year, the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department, who plans the Festival, will raffle tickets for a 2015 Yamaha Waverunner VX Deluxe with a trailer.

Festival - 8



MUSCOGEE NATION§

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE

jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE <u>ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov</u>

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

MCN observes Child Abuse Awareness Month



Chelsie Rich/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration hosted an awareness event April 22, at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla., in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Attendees educate on prevention, reporting

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration hosted an awareness event April 22, at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

According to the U.S. Department of Human Services 2014 annual report, DHS received more than 73,000 reports of alleged child maltreatment related to 138,000 children where more than 7,800 of those reports were substantiated, which involved 14,172 children.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger issued a proclamation read by Second Chief Louis Hicks declaring April as Child Abuse Awareness Month at the Nation.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma is a sovereign Nation and as such seeks to protect the rights, welfare and safety of its citizens and children," the proclamation said.

prevent or report child abuse. "It's everyone's responsibility to recognize and react to child abuse," said CFSA Tribal Reunification Services Pro-

gram Manager Beky Baker.

Attendees learned steps to

According to a report from the Indian Child Welfare Act, the total for Native American children statewide in DHS and Tribal custody and is 4,250 and of those, 387 have identified as MCN as their primary tribe.

CFSA encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making MCN a better place for children and families by ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills and resources to care for their children and promote those children's so-

cial and emotional well-being. "The different types of child abuse are neglect, failure to provide for a child's basic needs, physical abuse, which could be physical injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shacking, burning," Baker said. "Anything that would otherwise harm a child."

'Wipe Out Child Abuse.' Informational booths, presentations, an honor walk and wearing of the color teal were all in an effort to bring awareness to child abuse.

year's theme was,

Blue ribbons were also tied to designated areas of the MCN Tribal Complex to represent the number of Native children and families who are affected by child abuse each year.

For or for more information or to report suspected abuse or neglect of a Muscogee (Creek) child call CFSA at: 918-732-7869 or MCN Lighthorse Police at: 918-732-7800.

Former MCN second chief sentenced to nearly three years

Tiger issues statement following decision

USDCNDO/Media Release

TULSA, Okla. – Roger Dana Barnett, 53, of Bristow, Okla., the former Muscogee (Creek) Nation second chief, was sentenced May 5 to serve 33 months in prison and ordered to pay \$211,880.76 in restitution for embezzling from MCN, announced U.S. Attorney Danny C. Williams Sr. for the Northern District of Oklahoma. In addition to the prison incarceration and restitution, Barnett was sentenced to three years of supervised release. During the time of release, Barnett will be banned from gambling facilities and is required to attend gambling addiction counsel-

"The defendant abused his position of trust," said Williams. "Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials reported the misuse of tribal funds after an internal audit. We will continue to work with tribal government and law enforcement partners to bring those who abuse the system to justice."

On Aug. 6, 2014, a grand jury charged Barnett with embezzling tribal funds in excess of \$1,000 from April 3, 2013 to April 29, 2014. Barnett pleaded guilty Oct. 9, 2014 to the charge.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger issued the following statement May 5:

"The sentence handed down today to former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Second Chief Roger Barnett by the U.S. Northern District of Oklahoma Court was felt throughout the Nation.

"The Muscogee (Creek) Nation continues to heal and unify during these trying times, but we will reemerge stronger and will persevere. We ask that all tribal citizens, employees and media respect the privacy of Mr. Barnett and his family, and we continue to pray for him and his family. That is the Mvskoke Way," Tiger said.

FVPP holds sexual assault awareness event

Theme states 'IT'S ON US' to end sexual violence

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Sexual assault is a problem within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction as well as the state. According to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, 1,762 rapes were reported in 2013 and 612 were within the Nation's jurisdiction.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention Program hosted the 'IT'S ON US' sexual assault awareness presentation April 30 at the MCN Tribal Complex Mound building in Okmulgee to educate participants and the Honor Walk afterwards to recognize those impacted.

"One of the hardest things for sexual assault victims is to come forward and to tell somebody about what has happened to them, FVVP Sexual Assault Advocate Mitzi Pope said. "The more we talk about it, the more comfortable people feel to come forward

services." for The event included a showing of the documentary, 'Listen to the Grandmothers: Incorporat-

ing Tradition into

the Contemporary Response to Violence Against Native Women.' The film featured elders sharing cultural views on how women should be treated and presented stories from survivors of domestic violence. Following the film, FVPP



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Coun-

The Warriors Honor Women advocacy group lead an Honor Walk April 30 on the MCN Tribal Complex to acknowledge and honor those impacted by sexual violence.

Victim's Advocate Lesha Deere-Yargee spoke on traditional Mvskoke views regarding this issue.

"Physical and sexual abuse have corrupted our Mvskoke way of life. It is very important to remember our women and young ladies, they continue to be the root of our existence as Muscogee people," Deere-Yargee said. urged both wom-

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

OUR WOMEN AND YOUNG LADIES, THEY

CONTINUE TO BE THE ROOT OF OUR

EXISTENCE AS MUSCOGEE PEOPLE."

- MCN FVPP VICTIM'S ADVOCATE

LESHA DEERE-YARGEE

en and men in attendance

to take pride in their heri-

tage and to educate others.

ate a safer place for our future

generations," Deere-Yargee said.

domestic violence advocacy

Warriors Honor Women, a

"It is our responsibility to cre-

violence will not be tolerated. **MCN** National Rep. Franklin cil

Coachman expressed his pride in being a WHW member. "We talk about

group, was in attendance to

lead the Honor Walk. FVPP

Men's Advocate Joe Martel,

stated that the Warrior's pres-

ence at the event strength-

ens the message that sexual

traditions. It's part of who we are supposed to be. I am glad I am a warrior for this group here and when I come to the meetings, I am just a partici-

pant," Coachman said. "We've got to teach of kids how to do things right and it starts with each and everyone of us."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger opened the event and had previously proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

MNN DEADLINES

June 1 — May 22

June 15 — June 8 July 1 — June 22

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 — July 24

Aug. 15 — Aug. 7

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8

Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

ANNUAL REPORT CORRECTION

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Relations would like to retract information on page 10 of the '2014 MCN Annual Report.'

The information and phone numbers given in the 'MCN Legal Services contacts' section incorrectly listed the names and phone numbers for staff in another department.

We apologize for the error.

Inaugural Student, Elder day held at Elderly Nutrition



Muscogee (Creek) citizens play games and get to know each other April 18 during the Elder and Student Day at the Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee, Okla.

Event promotes inter-generational communication

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The dinning area of the Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center was filled with laughter as both young and old alike participated in games April 18 during the Elder and Student Day.

This event began in the minds Fife, Claudia McHenry and Laura Mason service project idea for the Generation Indigenous Initiative.

They applied for a grant, which was not funded but they pressed on. The event began to bloom when they partnered with the Okmulgee Elderly Nutrition Center, which had funds available for functions that cultivate sharing between generations.

The center donated food and labor for the meal. The event founders along with other youth nations for bingo prizes and Mason at: 918-732-7776.

giveaways.

A Myskoke language bingo game was included as a way to encourage lessons between generations. The bingo caller said a word in Myskoke and the player marked the English translation on the bingo sheet.

Preston High School freshman and Myskoke Nation Youth Services board member Jay Fife explained the planning behind Elder Student Day.

"We tried to involve culture, language, everything we could," Fife said.

MNYS Director Nancy Mason said she was excited that this event was the idea of Muscogee (Creek) youth. She explained one goal of the department is to involve youth in community service more often.

"So, getting them to do things like this, projects, interact with their elders, do some service learning, you know, with community service out there," Mason said. "This is kind of the first step for them to do that."

Mason challenged youth from across the jurisdiction to eat with the elders at their local nutrition centers during the month of May for Older Americans Month.

According to Mason, the nutrition centers said any attending youth could eat for free that

For more information contact

Environmental Services organizes trash pickup for Earth Day



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Specialist James Williams shows a map of where volunteers will work during the Earth Day trash pickup hosted April 22 by the MCN ES Office.

Volunteers show up to clean despite weather

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. -The forecast called for rain the morning of April 22 in Northeastern Oklahoma and was cause for concern among volunteers who had signed up for the day's event.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services along with the Okmulgee County Conservation District held a trash pickup for Ekvnv Nettv or 'Earth Day,' which is observed annually worldwide

their efforts.

"This is great," Williams said. "The volunteers came out and although it is still a little cool, that did not stop them from wanting to help out with the event. We had near 100 people pre-registered and they showed

Although Earth Day is held once a year, Beaver spoke about what people can do to help make the environment better everyday.

According to Beaver, one thing everyone can do is be efficient by reducing consumption to fit basic needs. Some examples include: buying in bulk, recycling paper and

"WE SHOULD BE STEERING ALL THE EFFORTS INTO MAKING OUR ENVIRONMENT A BETTER

environmental protection.

The pickup occurred along Oklahoma Highway Loop 56, which connects U.S. Highways 75 and 62 and is north of the MCN Tribal Complex in

"This loop is traveled by hundreds and hundreds of cars everyday," MCN OES Manager

The rain and clouds slowly started to clear out as volunteers gathered at the College of Muscogee Nation to get team assignments and shirts as well as bags and sticks to pick up the trash.

this morning to see if we were still having the event," Beaver said. "I believe if it was raining, they would have still shown up."

MCN OES Environmental Specialist James Williams commended the volunteers for

using rechargeable batteries.

"It is more of a commitment," Beaver said. "It is not a one day thing."

Williams stressed that Myskoke ancestors lived off the land and with the environment and thus; current day citizens should be the first to protect it.

"Since we are the good stewards of the earth, we should be steering all the efforts into making our environment a better place," Williams said. "Being Native American, we need to take the lead."

Baranda Boone along with her son, Austin, was among the volunteers and signed up through their church group.

"Our church, Clearview Baptist Church, needed some volunteers and we wanted to help out," Boone said. "We wanted to help out and to serve our community by volunteering our time."

For more information about conservation contact the MCN ES Office at: 918-549-2580.

PLACE. BEING NATIVE AMERICAN, WE NEED TO TAKE THE LEAD." - MCN ES ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

JAMES WILLIAMS

to demonstrate support for

Okmulgee.

Del Beaver said. "I drive on it to get to work everyday so we all thought it would be best to clean it up."

"We had some phone calls



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Volunteers pick up trash April 22 along Oklahoma Highway Loop 56 in Okmulgee, Okla., during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services Earth Day event.

of Muscogee (Creek) youths Jay baked sweets and gathered do-

Citizens strive to keep California association alive



Darren DeLaune/MNN

A meeting of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association was held April 25 at Hurless Barton Park in Yorba Linda, Calif.

CMCA gathers to rebuild, bridge gap with MCN

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

YORBA LINDA, Calif. — Cloudy skies and blustery wind could not stop members of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association from having their spring meeting April 25, at Hurless Barton Park in Yorba Linda.

CMCA is heavily comprised of Muscogee (Creek) citizens within the southern California area where they have a majority of their meetings and those from the central and northern regions participate as well.

"We are spread out throughout the state and we also have members that live in Arizona, Nevada and Oregon," CMCA Interim President Jeanna Spirou said.

The meeting was held to move forward with nominations for president and vicepresident of the organization.

"We have decided to wait until the August meeting to hold the elections for president and vice-president," CMCA Member Allen Mitchell said. "We feel we

need to give more time for our citizens to be able to send in their nominations for candidates."

Although the nominations were tabled, attendees were able to meet with MCN Office of Public Relations Manager Selina Jayne Dornan to address the questions and concerns that they had for the Nation.

"Our job at the Nation is to keep both citizens here and abroad informed of what the Nation is doing," Dornan said.

Dornan felt that meeting was needed and she hopes that she can be a liaison for the at-large citizens and MCN.

"This is very important," Dornan said. "The citizens have a voice whether they are in California or in Oklahoma. That voice needs to be heard by our leadership here at the Nation."

Mitchell spoke about how the citizens from both California and Oklahoma need to come together to help keep their Nation strong.

"We all need to come together, as a tribe, not as individuals," Mitchell said. "Although we are out here, we are not less Creek because we are out here in California.

Spirou spoke about the importance CMCA. of

"This association gives our citizens the platform on which they are able to communicate with the leaders in Oklahoma," Spirou said. "This association allows our citizens to keep growing with our culture so we can pass it on to the generations after us."

Spirou talked about the big shoes the next president and vice-president will have to fill. With past presidents such as Ken Taylor, Eli Grayson and George Windes being at the helm, CMCA members were always informed of what was going on with their tribe.

"Those three men were an integral part of our association," Spirou said. "They have advocated for the members here in California as well as members who do not live within the tribe's jurisdiction."

The next CMCA meeting will be held Aug. 1 and elections will take place at the meeting for president and vice-president. CMCA invites MCN departments and officials to speak at this event.

For more information CMCA, contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554.

Tribe brokers meeting to continue jurisdiction road improvement



terling Cos

L to r: Oklahoma Deputy State Auditor Cindy Byrd, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge and Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak during a meeting April 17 between the Oklahoma Office of the State Auditor and Inspector and state county commissioners at the TTP building in Okmulgee, Okla.

Mutually beneficial relationship fostered between MCN, counties within

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program hosted a meeting April 17 at the TTP building in Okmulgee, between Oklahoma Deputy State Auditor Cindy Byrd and state county commissioners for a discussion regarding updates to the state laws that regulate contract bids for work on local roads.

"She was here to answer questions we had with our federal roads program," said TTP Manager Charley LaSarge.

LaSarge brokered the meeting after a project involving tribal funding in Hughes County had to be halted because the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General issued an opinion, which stated that the commissioners needed to put the labor portion of road projects up for a competitive bid before deciding who to contract with.

al road money before it expires, the counties also depend on this funding through MCN to cover their needs.

"Because there's so many shortfalls in county commissioners' budgets now, that they need our tribal money from our federal roads program to supplement them to fix roads out in their areas," LaSarge said.

In the past, TTP had difficulty spending all of the money provided by the federal government due to a labor shortfall at the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Transportation Department, which allocates the funding.

"To me, they overloaded themselves with responsibility from other tribes and that way, they couldn't keep up with the workflow we wanted to go at; the speed we wanted to get rid of money," LaSarge said.

LaSarge hired consulting firms instead of relying on the bureau for services outside of the final inspections required through the office.

"That sped the process up here; so now we can have five

"SO THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SEES HOW MUCH WORK WE'RE PUTTING OUT THERE NOW; THEY'RE NOT EVEN THINKING ABOUT PULLING THAT MONEY BACK..."

- MCN TTP MANAGER CHARLEY LASARGE

"We had such a good relationship with the county and I didn't want that to go away," LaSarge said.

The tribe provides funding and materials to the counties using the money provided through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highways Administration every year to go towards road improvement.

This funding depletes if it is not used within that same fiscal year.

"What they do is that when they provide the services, when they get invoiced for materials or labor costs or machinery costs of their own, they just invoice us and we pay them the money to pay that invoice," La-Sarge said. "But the state didn't look at it that way."

LaSarge does not believe this will be an issue now that all parties have been informed.

"It's not a long time, because usually we know we're going to do a contract with the county commissioners six months to a year in advance," he said. "But now we know that contract labor has to be bid out before we sign the contract with the county commissioners."

While the tribe utilizes the county resources to spend feder-

or six projects going at one time and when we finish that...the next four, five or six have kicked off to start again," he said.

This process has paid off.

"Since January 2012, we've probably spent over \$20 million out there on federal roads within our territory," LaSarge said. "So the Federal Highway Administration sees how much work we're putting out there now; they're not even thinking about pulling that money back now."

The tribe also saves money by utilizing local resources.

"For example, we're doing a contract with the City of Tulsa in the near future," LaSarge said. "They're providing all the engineering services for us at no cost. If I was to do that on my own, I would spend hundreds of thousands of dollars doing all that design work and engineering work."

LaSarge hopes to continue a conversation with the state government next legislative session to explore changing the bid laws in order to expedite roadwork.

"So next year we're hoping to get in there and the state legislatures can amend that statute to include contract labor and then it puts us back where we started," LaSarge said.

Myskoke Nation Youth Services hosts financial seminar

Event designed to teach fiscal responsibility

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Myskoke Nation Youth Services program presented the 'It's all about the Benjamins,' financial literacy seminar April 30 at the College of the Muscogee Nation Student Center in Okmulgee The event aimed to prepare students for financial responsibilities while in college.

"We brought in different topics that young people face... basically to get information out and awareness issues that affect young people around finances," said MNYS Director Nancy Mason.

The seminar provided students with the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills in the areas of: banking and credit

basics, taxes, responsible gaming, personal budgeting as a student and identity theft.

"April is actually financial literacy month so we wanted to collaborate in that effort and provide some information to our local youth," Mason said.

The workshops brought in speakers from a local credit union, River Spirit Casino and the MCN Finance Department to each cover their respective topics.

"One of the things I'm proud of for the seminar is, we had a young person that actually presented on budgeting," Mason said. "She was able to kind of share her experiences."

MNYS Program Assistant Jasmyne Jack held the presentation as a student workshop.

The seminar was open to Muscogee (Creek) high school and college students up to the age of 24-years-old.

Stacy Barrett attended the seminar and shared what she took away from it.

took away from it.

"Financial advice like with credit unions and banks and savings," Barrett said. "I know

I can save."

Barrett is a former Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and CMN student and plans to attend Bacone College located in Muskogee, Okla., in the fall to study sonography.

"They said there's a lot of scholarships out there for anyone and everyone so I will look into that," Barrett said.

MNYS will also be working to develop new programs and services and to connect youth with existing resources.

For more information call MNYS at: 918-549-2557 or email: youthservices@mcn-nsn. gov.





McIntosh pens screenplay about famous ancestor



MNN File Photo Muscogee (Creek) citizen Billie Jane McIntosh has written two books and a screenplay about her great-great-great-grandfather, former Muscogee (Creek) Chief William McIntosh and their family.

Story of controversial chief told by descendent

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) author/playwright Billie Jane McIntosh has little qualms about the moral standing of her prominent ancestor, former Muscogee (Creek) Chief William McIntosh.

"I am convinced that Chief McIntosh was a visionary and a genius and a person who wanted the best for the tribe," Billie Jane said. "He was a human being; he was not a saint. I will not say that."

According to: www.georgi-aencyclopedia.org, William Mc-Intosh was a controversial chief of the Lower Creeks in early-nineteenth-century Georgia.

His general support of the United States and its efforts to obtain cessions of Creek territory alienated him from many Creeks who opposed white encroachment on Indian land.

"I think basically, he was a sacrifice to the nation and the tribe both," Billie Jane said. "He has been heavily misunderstood. Of course, you know; there are two sides to his story."

Billie Jane shared her research on William McIntosh's story through a project she recently completed.

"The screenplay was not my idea. It was from a man who lives in Georgia near where the McIntosh reserve is," she said.

Matt Collins, owner of Brit Nicholas Entertainment, initially sought historical consultation from Billie Jane to assist another author who was working on the piece at that time.

According to Billie Jane, Collins had a falling out with the author and asked her to take over.

"She was having to do a lot of background research and I read part of it and told him, "This isn't true," Billie Jane said.

Having already completed two books about her family's history, Billie Jane was not sure she was up to the endeavor.

"You might as well give your life over to it when you decided to do something like that," Billie

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Jane said. "I had to think about it for a couple of weeks and decided, 'Well, if anybody's going to do it, it's going to have to be me."

Billie Jane had already acquired

an extensive amount of historical material from her family.

"I have to tell you that I got my basic material from Dode McIntosh," she said.

Waldo E. 'Dode' McIntosh was the great-grandson of William McIntosh.

According to the Mvskoke History Course compiled by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, he was the last to be appointed as chief by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"Dode did the most lengthy research into Chief McIntosh and I met him some years before he died," Billie Jane said.

Billie Jane did not grow up knowing of her relation to this family and discovered it

through someone doing research of their own.
"I got turned around when I was about 22-years-old, whenever I got a letter from

a relative from Oklahoma who was doing a family tree of Chief William McIntosh," she said. Now 87, Billie Jane discov-

ered and embraced her heritage during a time when the dominant society in America did not. She was living on a ranch

in Kansas and someone who was working for her husband made a discriminatory remark. "He said, 'This guy was trying to fool me but what could

you expect; he was just an Indian. In other words, that he was a no-good person, she said. Billie Jane replied by mak-

ing her first statement in sup-

port of Native Americans. "I spoke up and said, 'Well, I don't know about that, I'm part Indian myself...' So this guy said, 'Well, I wouldn't brag about it.' So

"But for the first time in my life, I felt like a whole person. I am Creek Indian and now I could say it with pride for the rest of my life," she said.

I didn't say anything more to him.

Despite her controversial ancestor, Billie Jane said she has not had to defend the name of William McIntosh to other citizens very often.

"I would say altogether, probably only three individuals have come up to me and said something about, 'Well, he was really a traitor,' " she said.

According to: www.georgi-aencyclopedia.org, William McIntosh led a contingent of Lower Creeks (along with then Gen. Andrew Jackson) against Upper Creek Chief

"HE HAS BEEN HEAVILY MISUNDERSTOOD. OF COURSE, YOU KNOW; THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO HIS STORY."

- MUSCOGEE (CREEK) AUTHOR/PLAYWRIGHT

BILLIE JANE MCINTOSH

Menawa's forces during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

The encyclopedia states that William McIntosh played a key role in negotiating the second Treaty of Indian Springs roughly 10 years later in 1825, which provided for the cession of virtually all the remaining Creek territory.

There are many conflicting accounts of this period. Billie Jane's research through the Institute for the Develop-

Billie Jane's research through the Institute for the Development of Indian Law in Washington, D.C., tells a different story regarding Indian Springs, which followed the 1814 Treaty of Fort Jackson that ceded approximately 26 million acres in retribution for Horseshoe Bend and the Creek Wars.

"William McIntosh signed the Treaty of 1825 at Indian Springs Inn, but this treaty was declared invalid shortly after he was killed," she said. "Then the Upper Creeks, including the chiefs who murdered him, signed the Treaty of 1826; basically same as the one they had killed William McIntosh for less than a year later."

According to a Creek law that William McIntosh himself supported, an execution sentence awaited any Creek leader who ceded land without the full consent of the entire Creek Nation.

Menawa and 200 warriors carried out this sentence April 30, 1825 for actions Billie Jane feels were necessary.

"There were four times more Europeans in the region," Billie Jane said. "Chief William McIntosh could see that but the Creeks

that were the least educated of them just couldn't see it so they fought all the way."

To view Billie Jane's account of what happened to the McIntosh fam-

ily afterwards check out, 'From Georgia Tragedy to Oklahoma Frontier – A Biography of Scots Creek Indian Chief Chilly Mc-Intosh' at: www.amazon.com. Collins is market-

Collins is marketing the screenplay.
"The latest word is that it may

"The latest word is that it may be made into a documentary and used in all the schools in Georgia," Billie Jane said. "And I think that will be just great, to educate the children about the first peoples of their State of Georgia, the Creek Nation. And a documentary can also be a tool toward a movie being produced in Hollywood."

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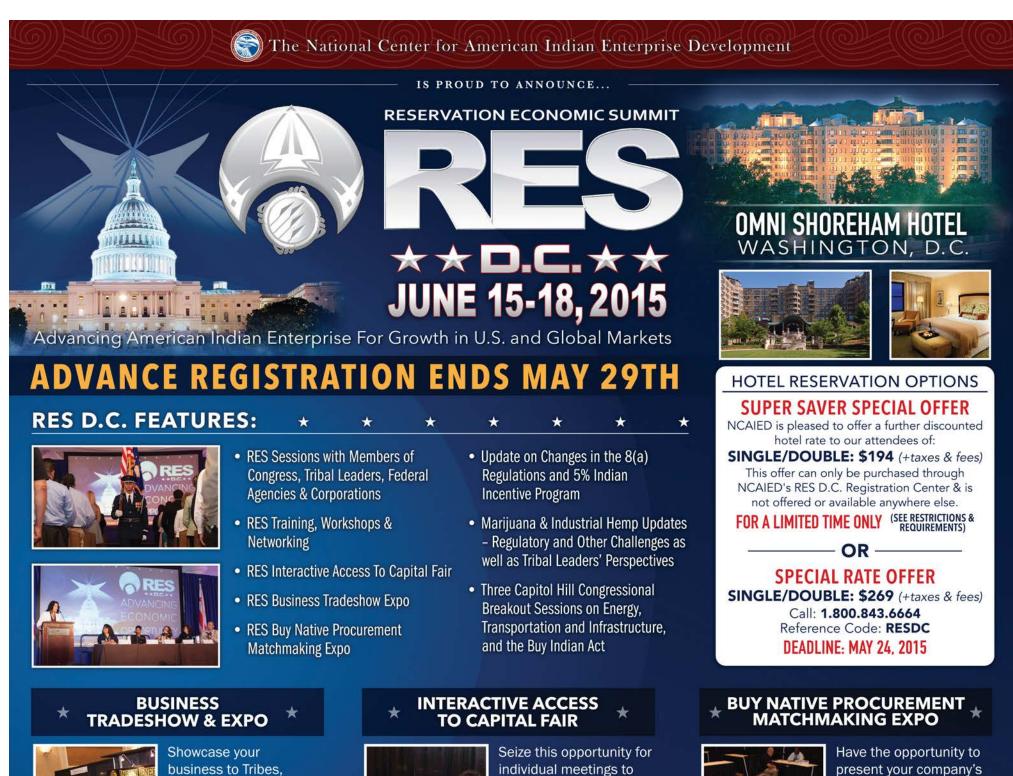
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Groups performing at 2015 MCN Festival

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

- 3-on-3 Adult Basketball Tournament, June 20 Kendra Root: 918-758-8644
- Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament, June 20-22 | MCN Tourism and Recreation: 918-732-7992.
- 3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament, June 27: Kendra Root: 918-758-8644.

Festival event participation contact information

- Council House Art and Food Market Vendor, June 26-27 | MCN Cultural Center and Archieves: 918-549-2434.
- Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament, June 26-28: Tourism and Recreation: 918-732-7992.
- Junior Olympics, June 26 Christy Banta: 918-756-4333 ext. 251.
- Parade, June 27 | Molly Moore: 918-732-7983.
- Coed Volleyball Tournament, June 27 Lauren Randall: 918-732-7981.

For more event information visit: www.creekfestival.com.

For general inquiries or deadline information, call: 918-732-7992.



Jessica McBride/MNN

ABOUT THE BANDS:

Little Texas

Influenced by modern country groups such as Alabama and Restless Heart, as well as country-rock groups such as the Eagles, the band started in the 1980s. Their debut single, "Some Guys Have All the Love," was released in 1991 and quickly hit the Top Ten. Little Texas' sophomore album, "Big Time," sold three million copies and produced two Top Five country hits with, "What Might Have Been," and "God Blessed Texas." The third single, "My Love," became the groups first number one hit. In 1994 Brady Seals departed Little Texas for a solo career, and was replaced by the former Clint Black instrumentalist, Jeff Huskins. The band took a break in 1996, reducing the number of shows from over 300 to around 100. They recorded their third album, "Little Texas," and in 1997 went on hiatus. After several years the bandmembers reunited with vocalist Steven Troy and launched the Hello Again tour in 2004. Little Texas released albums, "Missing Years," and "The Very Best of Little Texas: Live and Lous in 2007.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Sawyer Brown

Country-pop singer Don King, guitarist Bobby Randall, drummer Joe Smyth, Jim Scholten, keyboardist Gregg 'Hobie' Hubbard and guitarist and future lead singer Mark Miller began playing together as a group in 1980. The group decided to stay together after King left in 1981 and named themselves after the Nashville street they rehearsed on. The group appeared on Star Search where they won the grand prize of \$100,000 and signed with Liberty records. Sawyer Brown created notable hits throughout the 1980s-1990s. Following their album in 1991, they signed with Curb. They lost Randall around 1991 and replaced him with Duncan Cameron, never ceasing to tour. In 2002, Sawyer Brown parted ways with Curb and reseigned with Lyric Street, a Disney recording company. Notable hist include "Betty's Bein' Bad," "This Missin' You Heart of Mine," "The Race Is On," "The Walk, "Some Girls Do," "All These Years," "Trouble on the Line," "Thank God for You," and "Treat Her Right."

A Tribe Called Red

All the way from Ottawa, Canada, Native producer and DJ crew, A Tribe Called Red, burst onto the electronica scene in 2010. The music of DJ NDN, Bear Witness and 200lman intertwines traditional powwow songs and drumming with high-powered beats. Their events combine a party atmosphere with their own indigenous culture. In 2012 they release their self-titled album which was posted on the Washington Post's Top 10 albums of the year and also nominated for a Polaris Music Prize. While known for their music, A Tribe Called Red brings life to Native issues for today's youth. Their second album was released in May in Canada and titled "Nation II Nation." It is nominated for the Polaris Music Prize Top Ten and four Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards consisting of best group, best producer, best album and best cover. The songs, "Indians From All Directions" and "A Tribe Called Red" appear on Angel Haze's album, "Dirty Gold."



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

The Commodores

The Commodores have hit songs for the past three decades, beginning in 1968 at Tuskegee Institute. The group is commonly known for their R&B, pop and funk sound. Their CD, "Commodores Live" was recorded during a 1997 tour and released during a TV special in December 1998. The group began by opening for the Jackson 5 and were the largest selling act during the 70s and 80s. Their hits include "Brick House," "Three Times A Lady," "Slippery When Wet," "Lady (You Bring Me Up)," and "Too Hot Ta Trot." In 1983 Lionel Richie and Walter 'Clyde' Orange parted from The Commodores. They added J.D. Nicholas, known for "Boogie Nights" and "Always and Forever" in 1984 to fill the co-lead vocalist spot. They recorded four albums during a 1991-1992 time frame with two hit compilations, a Christmas album and "Commordores XX- No Tricks." The Commodores now have their own label and bring talent and experience to generations young and old.

Kool & The Gang

Kool & The Gang describe their genre as a mixture of soul, R&B and funk, though they were formed as a jazz band in the 1960s. Their original name, Jazziacs, changed through the years as they added group members. The name Kool & The Gang was created after a club accidently advertised them as Kool & The Flames. The group's "Wild and Peaceful," album brought them fame in the 1970s. "Funky Stuff" was their first Top 40 hit, along with other hits "Jungle Boogie," "Hollywood Swinging," "Too Hot," "Celebration," "Get Down On It," "Misled" and "Fresh." Their song, "Open Sesame," from the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack won a Grammy award. James "J.T." Taylor left the group for a solo career in 1986, only to return to the group in 1995. Kool & The Gang released albums through the 2000s, including "State of Affairs," "Gangland," "The Hits: Reloaded" and "Still Kool" recorded after the 2006 death of co-founder and guitarist Charles Smith.



Courtesy photo

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tions to a supervisor or the MCN Office of the Attorney General.

It adds the MCN principal chief and second chief, National Council and Council committees as officials whom employees may file a protected complaint to. It also protects those testifying voluntarily to, or in response to a MCN subpoena.

It adds the right for employees, on their own time, to exercise free speech at any public meeting they attend and the right to sign a petition.

The bill updates the language to reflect the current MCN personnel department name and requires the department to provide a copy stamped 'received' by the recipient, when an employee files a complaint regarding another employee who has taken adverse employment action against the complainant because of their own illegal activity.

It also changes the amount paid to the recording secretary of a commission, tasked with reviewing employee complaints, from \$45 a meeting to an amount determined by the commission.

Tiger's veto objections can be viewed on page 10 of the MNN May 1 edition.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 15-038 Authorizing the Tulsa Creek Indian Community to use the Great Seal of the MCN. Reps. Robert Hufft and Lucian Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The full legislation states that it is against MCN law to use the seal without permission and approval is sought for use on tobacco accessories sold at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Smoke Shop.

• TR 15-042 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement on behalf of the MCN Department of Health and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation approves a government-to-government agreement between MCN and ODMH for MCNDH to promote the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline on social media and facilitate an agreement with ODMH, which is in the best interest of MCNDH.

• TR 15-043 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement on behalf of MCNDH with the Oklahoma Blood Institute. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation approves an agreement for MCN hospitals to obtain necessary blood components available through OBI.

• TR 15-044 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard master license agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Clinical Drug Information LLC. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation approves the use of CDI services by MCNDH.

• TR 15-045 Providing support for passage of Oklahoma House Bill 1034, amending the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, currently introduced in

the 55th session of the Oklahoma State Legislature. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-1-1, with Rep. James Jennings voting against it and Barnett abstaining.

The legislation supports an Oklahoma State bill that authorizes sponsorship of charter schools on tribal property by a federally recognized Indian

The HB states that State Department of Education personnel provide that an increase in increase in the number of charter schools will result in the need for additional funds.

The TR states that MCN has a positive history of teaching youth in traditional methods and welcomes the opportunity provided by the state legislation, as charter schools would give tribes the same accreditation as state and local educational agencies.

• TR 15-046 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement related to the operation of MCNDH pharmacies.

porary operating permit with Jake's Fireworks Inc. on behalf of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to the legislation, the permit will allow GCIC to further their economic development by leasing their property to the fireworks company for \$2,500.

• TR 15-051 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Nation and Okmulgee County for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Rep. Darrel Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for TTP to put their funds towards the proposed Briar Road and Beggs School Road Projects.

• TR 15-052 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an oil and gas lease on 10 mineral acres of tribal property locatprincipal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and architect for the design and construction of a new clinic in Eufaula, Okla. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation states that the MCNDH has determined that the construction of this clinic is necessary to best serve the health needs of Muscogee (Creek) citizens and has determined with MCN Tribal Construction Services, that One-Architecture LLC is qualified to design the facility.

• TR 15-057 Authorizing the Oklahoma Department of Human Services to use the Great Seal of the MCN. Rep. Franklin Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows OK DHS to use the seal in their outreach material to inform families with tribal affiliations that they have the choice to use a Tribal IV-D Program instead of the State Child Support Program.

behalf of MCNDH. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0. The legislation allows for MCNDH to obtain telephone and Internet services from AT&T to serve patients. • TR 15-063 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Nation and Muskogee County for the maintenance of roadways/ bridges and associated rights-

sponsored the

which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for a

settlement to be completed

regarding a case titled 'Mus-

cogee (Creek) Nation v. ZZ

Consulting P.A., Christopher

Zweifel P.E. and B&W Manu-

facturing Company' following

a mediation session between

said parties relating to the de-

sign and construction of the

• TR 15-062 Authorizing the

secretary of health to execute agreements with AT&T on

Myskoke Dome building.

resolution,

The legislation allows for TTP to put their funds towards the proposed Hilldale Road Project.

of-ways constructed or im-

proved by MCN TTP. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the

resolution, which passed 14-0.

• TR 15-064 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an application for transfer of membership certificate with Okmulgee County Rural Water District #4 for water service at a tribal property located in Okmulgee County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for MCN to apply for a transfer of water services from the previous owner of land, purchased by the MCN for use by the Morris Indian Community, to continue said services under the ownership of the Nation.

• TR 15-065 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an out-of-state waste certification form between MCN and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality for the purpose of providing safe disposal of pharmaceutical/ prescription drugs. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This legislation allows the MCN Office of Environmental Services to provide Muscogee (Creek) citizens with a proper method to dispose of prescription medications through the Covanta Energy Corporation.

• TR 15-066 Authorizing the principal chief to submit an offer to the City of Checotah to purchase real property in Mc-Intosh County and to purchase the real property if the bid is awarded. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for MCN to purchase a 20 by 80 foot property near the Checotah Casino that the facility has used for several years if the Nation's \$1,000 bid (to be paid by the casino) on the land is awarded by the City of Checotah.

• TR 15-067 Opposing the proposed regulations governing the federal recognition process federal acknowledgment rules (25 CFR 83) of the Office of the Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, U.S. Department of the Interior, regarding groups seeking federal recognition as Indian tribes. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addresses the MCN National Council April 25 during a Council quarterly session at the Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation approves an agreement between AmeriSourceBergen Technology Group and MCNDH to provide quality pharmacy services to patients.

• TR 15-047 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement with Align Networks Inc. on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation approves a preferred provider agreement between MCNDH and Align Networks (a workers compensation physical medicine company that coordinates between payors, providers and patients) to provide services to MCNDH patients.

• TR 15-048 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a software license and services agreement between MCN and the 3M Company for MCNDH. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation approves MCNDH to use 3M software to more efficiently and effectively manage health services for their patients.

• TR 15-049 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a hospital participation agreement between MCN and Prime Health Services Inc. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation approves a preferred provider agreement between MCNDH and the Prime Health insurance company to provide services to patients.

• TR 15-050 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a temed in Section 32, Township 13 north, Range 09 east, Okfuskee County. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows Scissortail Oil and Gas LLC to lease MCN land in exchange for \$3,500 lease bonus to the Na-

• TR 15-053 Authorizing the principal chief to execute requests to the City of Okmulgee for the use of city facilities for the 2015 MCN Festival. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows a request to Okmulgee on behalf of MCN to use city property for the softball tournament and pa-

• TR 15-054 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Nation and the City of Paden for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for TTP to put their funds towards the proposed Maple Road, P7th Road, Paden Main Road and P. High Road projects.

• TR 15-055 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN, the City of Bixby, Beggs Public Schools and Wetumka Public Schools for maintenance of walking trails. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This legislation allows for TTP to be responsible for the upkeep of trails in these respective areas.

• TR 15-056 Authorizing the

According to www.supporttribalchildren.org, allows tribes to join the federally implemented Child Support Enforcement program and authorized the operation of tribal CSE programs and cooperative agreements with state CSE agencies.

• TR 15-058 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a detention services agreement on behalf of MCN with the Sac and Fox Nation. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for MCN and its juveniles to use Sac and Fox Nation detention services.

• TR 15-059 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a modification of agreement on behalf of the MCN Child Support Enforcement Program and OK DHS. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

The legislation allows for a modification to the existing agreement with OK DHS to meet current IRS and National Directory of New Hire standards.

• TR 15-060 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an agreement with Bottling Group LLC for Pepsi products at MCN casinos. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows GOAB to enter into a five-year agreement with the company citing substantial savings and efficient operation as the reason for the deal.

• TR 15-061 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a compromise settlement agreement and release of claims. Randolph

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The resolution authorizes the opposition on behalf of MCN, to a proposed change in federal legislation that regulates the recognition of tribal governments by the U.S. government. The current process requires tribes seeking recognition to demonstrate community and political authority back to 1789 and the proposed change would update it to 1934.

• TR 15-068 Authorizing GOAB to execute a master agreement with AT&T for services at all gaming operations. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for GOAB to enter into a threeyear agreement to use AT&T services for MCN gaming operations.

• TR 15-070 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a temporary operating permit with the Okmulgee Lion's Club for the operation of one temporary fireworks sales facility on tribal trust land. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows the club to operate a stand on MCN land and waives the bond and rental fee citing support for charitable acts by the club.

• NCA 15-025 Amending MCNCA, Title 19, Section 5-102, entitled, 'Candidate must be registered and take leave from employment with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.' Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 8-6 with Reps. David Hill, Adam Jones, Proctor, Randolph, Tiger and Barnett voting against

Tribal employees seeking to run for MCN political office must take leave from their positions during the campaign period.

The legislation allows said able paid annual and personal leave during this time.

• NCA 15-064 Authorizing a \$56,162 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Head Start Program fiscal year 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

The funds will allow MCN Head Start to purchase 136 Apple iPads for use by children in the program to promote their literacy, school readiness as well as fine motor and early technological skills.

• NCA 15-065 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds help Muscogee (Creek) citizen NaKyia Monahwee travel to participate in softball tournaments in several states.

• NCA 15-066 Authorizing a \$10,000 donation to the American Diabetes Association. Reps. Pete Beaver, Ade, Coachman, Greene, Tiger and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will go to help the ADA host their Tour de Cure cycling event in Tulsa, Okla., to help raise funds for diabetes research, education and prevention.

• NCA 15-067 Authorizing a \$3,900 appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Jennings and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will help University of Oklahoma student Kristen Hayden study abroad through the 'College of Engineering in Italy' program as hosted by OU. Haden had previously raised \$4,000 of the total \$7,900 cost.

• NCA 15-068 Authorizing a \$11,179 special appropriation for the MCN Head Start Program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program received a \$2,276,794 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and a 20 percent match of this amount is required from Head Start in order to receive it. The appropriation will cover a short fall in their budget in order to meet this match.

• NCA 15-069 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to the Oklahoma Twisters baseball team. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will sponsor the 9-years-old and under team, which has seven out of twelve players who belong to federally recognized tribes including MCN. Head coach Robby Fixico requested the funds to help cover team expenses.

• NCA 15-070 Authorizing a \$804.50 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will help Muscogee (Creek) seventh grade Glenpool Middle School student Trever Fish cover the expenses of his educational trip to Washington, D.C., which will be hosted by his geography teacher. His mother Ramona Roberts has made monthly payments on the \$1,609 cost and this is to cover the remaining balance.

• NCA 15-072 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to McIntosh Tumbling. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will help the team compete in the National Gymnastics Meet in Rapid City, N.D. The team consists of members employees to use their avail- ranging from ages five to 15 and has 10 out of 17 members who are Native American and two of those are Muscogee (Creek).

> • NCA 15-073 Amending NCA 14-202 (Authorizing a donation to the California Muscogee (Creek) Association). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

> The funds from the original bill were to help pay for the CMCA holiday party and the amendment allows the remaining amount to go towards their spring meeting and annual gathering.

> • NCA 15-075 Appropriating \$54,320 to the MCN Youth Services Program to host three summer camps for Muscogee (Creek) youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

> The camps will help youth: learn to access and use educational resources and services available from MCN, raise their awareness of other resources, learn the Myskoke way of life, learn the importance of healthy choices, understand their potential as leaders and provide them with safe and supportive

• NCA 15-077 Authorizing the expenditure of \$31,380 from the DOI, National Park Service through the, 'Fiscal Year 2015 Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Organizations,' for the preservation of Muscogee (Creek) traditions through the Mvskoke Language Revitalization, 'Save our Language' project. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The Myskoke Language Preservation Program has applied for the grant and requires approval to expend the funds if they are awarded to go towards the 'Save Our Language' project by hiring interviewers and purchasing equipment needed to record and document the language.

 NCA 15-078 Authorizing the expenditure of \$447,420.50 for the construction of a parking lot to be located at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will help cover the engineering costs of the project, which is targeted at further developing the Omniplex by providing more parking. TTP has the funds to pay for the construction.

• NCA 15-080 Reaffirming support for the protection of the Muscogee sacred site of Hickory Ground near Wetumpka, Ala., and authorizing a \$462,332 special appropriation for the cost of necessary measures related thereto. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which 14-0.

The funds are to cover the ongoing legal and public relation efforts of MCN and Hickory Ceremonial Ground to protect the original ground site in Alabama, which has been developed into a casino by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, contrary to a prior understanding between the parties that the site would be preserved.

 NCA 15-082 Authorizing a \$184,789 special appropriation to the Holdenville Creek Indian Community. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will help cover renovation costs for the HCIC center to make it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act since it was built prior to ADA enactment, and add more storage space for the community smoke shop.

• NCA 15-083 Authorizing a \$10,600 special appropriation to the Weleetka Indian Community. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will go toward their ongoing cultural and community enrichment activities. Pursuant to MCNCA Title 35, Section 9-103 B. 5, the community has provided a budget with specific line items and a resolution.

Rep. David Nichols was ex-

cused. The June Council regular session was rescheduled from June 27 to June 20 to accommodate the 2015 MCN Festi-

The next regular session is set for May 16.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session agenda available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the 2010 MCNCA available on the MCN District Court website at: www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

BIA burn permit required for some Indian lands



The BIA has implemented a Burn Permit System, which is in effect for this area and authorization from the Okmulgee agency is required on trust or

Food, warmth, ceremonial fires exempt

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "Right now, the 'green-up' is coming and the outlook is hot. It all depends on what the rest of April is going to be, what the summer is going to be like. If we don't get any more rain here in April, we might be in for another bad season here in Okmulgee."

That is the forecast for the coming fire season from Bureau of Indian Affairs Okmulgee Agency Branch of Wildland Fire Management, Wildfire Prevention Range Technician Charlie Harley.

To prepare for possible wildfires, the local federal firefighting agency is requiring landowners to obtain a permit for large burning activities.

"This permit is for all tribal, restricted and trust lands which, basically, is the Indian lands that we all own," Harley explained. "The way to clarify that is, if you pay taxes on it, you don't own Indian land. If you don't, then it trol lines and get enough manpower to maintain and control that fire. We'll be out there for a couple days monitoring after the fire is out," he said.

According to Harley, those having bonfires at social events should also consult the agency.

"It's the same; you would still need a burn permit for that," he said. "Call us 30 minutes before you start it. But, we need to know what day you're going to try and burn that."

The federal agency will not send out any crews and equipment for those bonfires, but event organizers should notify local fire departments in these

The restricted fire activities listed in the BIA information packet states that:

No permit may be issued for burning of household waste, automobile tires or any other materials posing a threat to public safety and health and;

No burning may be authorized when:

 Sustained winds measured at 20 feet are forecast above 15

"IF YOU PAY TAXES ON IT, YOU DON'T OWN INDIAN LAND. IF YOU DON'T, THEN IT IS PROBABLY RESTRICTED OR HELD IN TRUST."

- BIA WILDFIRE PREVENTION TECHNICIAN CHARLES HARLEY

is probably restricted or held in trust."

He added that the permit is one method the federal agency can use to keep track of and be prepared for any burnings being conducted on these lands in the

The kinds of fires that require permits are those larger than are typically used for food preparation or warmth.

"Downed limbs, debris, leaf litter, brush piles—if you have large brush piles," Harley said. "Cooking fires, campfires those are exempt unless during high drought times. Ceremonial fires, those are exempt. But basic debris, burning limbs and bonfires are what's covered in this."

Fires at ceremonial grounds, Harley said, have never been a concern.

"Due to the fact that the fires that they keep have never escaped, really," he said. "We haven't had any responses to anything on a ceremonial ground."

For landowners planning to burn large portions of acreage, Harley said, their agency is willing to help out.

"If you want to burn off large tracts of land, we would prefer that you come through us and fill out a consent form so that we can conduct the burn properly.

"We'll come in and install con-

• Gusts of wind over five mph above the sustained winds are forecast;

• When a wind shift or frontal passage is forecast within 12 hours of ignition;

• Relative humidity is forecast below 30 percent;

• Air temperature is forecast over 80 degrees Fahrenheit;

• A fire weather watch, red flag warning or burning ban has been issued for the location of the burn.

Landowners interested in obtaining burn permits, Harley said, can come to their office, located east of the One Fire Casino off of U.S. Highway 75 in Okmulgee. In an effort to make the process easier and quicker, the agency has made application forms available at Muscogee (Creek) Nation community centers and tribal town offices.

Penalties may be imposed for non-compliance and landowners could bear financial responsibilities for any losses.

This year, crews have already responded to 51 fires within the MCN jurisdiction.

For more information email Harley at: charles.harley@bia. gov, or call: 918-752-7340.

COLEMAN ASBURY

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — Coleman Josua (Chief) Asbury was born Aug. 7, 1960 in Ada, Okla., to Wesley Elmer and Marie (Buckley) Asbury and passed from this life April 13, 2015 in Wichita Falls, Texas at the age of 54.

Chief was raised in the Bryant community and attended school there as a child.

In 1972, the family moved to Burkburnett, Texas where he attended high school. He worked as a construction laborer in the Wichita Falls area until ill health restricted his activities.

He is remembered as an avid billiards player and had participated in and won several tournaments.

He was preceded in death by his: parents and a sister Elizabeth Asbury.

Survivors include his: fiancée, Diane of Burkburnett, Texas; brother, Curtis Smith and wife, Anna of Wetumka; sister, Pauline Star of Tulsa, Okla.; brother, Wesley Asbury Jr.; sister, Lillian Asbury; brother, Charles Asbury and wife Zina and brother, Thompson Asbury, all of Wichita Falls.

A memorial service was set for April 18 at the Williamson Funeral Chapel with Rev. Sydney Lee officiating.

MARIE ASBURY



WICHITA FALLS, Texas — Marie Janis Asbury was born March 17, 1937 to Henry and Ella (Harjo) Buckley in Pawnee, Okla., and passed from this life March 1, 2015 in Wichita Falls at the age of 77.

Mrs. Asbury was raised in Hughes and Okfuskee Counties and also attended Indian boarding school. She continued her education and became a licensed vocational nurse and worked in the healthcare industry many years. She worked at the nursing home in Weleetka, Okla., before moving to Wichita Falls. She was married to Wesley Elmer Asbury, Sr. for 52 years before he preceded her in death Oct. 20, 2011.

She was also preceded in death by her: siblings, Lenora Willey, Solomon Buckley, Vincent Buckley, Charlie Buckley and Johnnie Buckley and an infant daughter, Elizabeth Asbury.

Survivors include her: daughters, Pauline Starr of Tulsa, Okla., and Lillian Asbury of Wichita Falls; sons, Curtis Smith and wife Anna of Wetumka, Okla., Coleman Asbury,

Wesley Asbury Jr., Charlie Asbury and wife Zina and Thompson Asbury, all of

Wichita Falls; sisters, Lulu Schwegman of Tulsa, Angela Golden of Okemah, Okla.; brothers, Jimmy Buckley of Dewar, Okla., Jonas Buckley of Okmulgee, Okla., and Frankie Buckley and by a long-time family friend, Bill Wise of Livingston, Texas.

OBITUARIES

Funeral services were set for March 7 at the Hickory Ground Church #2 near Ryal, Okla., with Rev. Sydney Lee officiating. Interment followed at the cemetery under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Wetumka.

JOSEPHINE BURNETT



TULSA, Okla. — Josephine D. Burnett (Vance), 90, passed away April 27, 2015 in Tulsa. She was born Oct. 4, 1924, in Tulsa to Joseph and Winnie Vance.

She was preceded in death by her: husband, James C. Burnett; parents; daughter, Nancy Elizabeth Burnett and sisters, Bernice MacLean and Mary Chesnut.

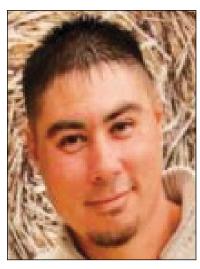
She is survived by her: daughters, Carole Sue Burdge (Brent), Gloria Jo Glenn (Kenneth), Julie Ann Smith (Shane), Becky Lea Perrodin (Kermit); 9 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild and sisters, Augusta Webb and Patricia Burnett.

She was a homemaker who devoted her whole life to her family, including her little dog Lucky.

She had an unwavering devotion to God and shared it with everyone who came into her life.

The services was scheduled May 4 at Moore's Southlawn Chapel. Donations in her memory can be made to Hospice Of Green Country, The Humane Society or John 3:16 Mission. Moore's Southlawn: 918-663-2233, www.moorefuneral.com.

KENNETH FISH



OKLAHOMA CITY — Kenneth Edward 'Kenny' Fish, Jr., age 33, passed away March 11, 2015 in Oklahoma City. He was born Jan. 23, 1982 in Claremore, Okla.

Kenny is survived by his: wife, Pepper Fish of the home; children, Layne and Brendon Fish; mother and step-father, Brenda and Ray Bowling of Glenpool, Okla.; father and step-mother, Kenny and Susan Fish of Tulsa, Okla.; sisters, Kendra Woodson and husband, Andrew of Bixby, Okla., and Kelsey Bowling of Glenpool; brother, Nick Bowling and wife, Lindsey of Tulsa; step-brother, Dr. John Evans and wife, Sarah of Tulsa; grandpar-

ents, Leona Fish of Tulsa, Murta Catcher of Kellyville, Okla., Leroy and Teresa Bowling of Point Blank, Texas and June Phillip of Sand Springs, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Stanley Fish and Floyd Catcher.

He was a welder for A.G. Equipment and a member of Family Fellowship Church.

Kenny loved life. He loved spending time with his family, fishing, playing softball, racing and dancing.

A wake service was held March 15 at Family Fellowship. Funeral services were held March 16 also at Family Fellowship with interment at Sunrise Cemetery at Kellyville.

Arrangements are under the direction of Mark Griffith Memorial Funeral Home – Westwood Chapel in Tulsa.

Online condolences and guestbook are available at www.markgriffithmemorialfuneral-homes.com.

BEATRICE HUDSON



HUGHSON, Calif. — Beatrice Hudson was born May 15, 1920 in Warwick, Okla., and passed away March 28, 2015 in Hughson. Beatrice was the daughter of Lucy Hough and Everett Peeper, who was a member of the 'Snow' family, tracing to Bea's grandmother, Mary Peeper Snow and greatgrandparents, Capahny and Yarlacoweny Snow. Beatrice moved to California during the Great Depression, where she met and married Buck Hudson who was from Ada, Okla. 'Bea' and Buck had three children: Rita, Phil and Paul.

Bea was a licensed Assembly of God minister and she and her husband spent many years in the work of the Lord. They pioneered two churches in Nevada, one being on a Piute Reservation

The Hudson's were married almost 73 years until Buck's passing in January of this year. Bea passed 80 days later.

Bea was preceded in death by her: parents, Everett Peeper and Lucy Hough; husband, Buck and daughter, Rita.

She is survived by: sons, Phil and Paul, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The funeral was held April 6 at the Waterford Assembly of God Church, with Pastor Dave McGaffe officiating. Burial was at Lakewood Cemetery in Hughson.

MVTO

My family and I would like to say Myto to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for fixing our family cemetery.

Many thanks to the workers: Charles Kelly, Allen King, Robin

Soweka and Charley Hicks for doing such a great job.

They were friendly and courteous. I will always know them as the fantastic four. — Mvto, Lillian Millier and family.

LEROY LOCUST



MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Leroy Vincent 'Toy' Locust, 66, of the Evening Shade community passed away April 14, 2015 at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in Muskogee. He was born July 24, 1948, at the home of his parents, Jess L. and Ella (Beaver) Locust on their family's allotment in Evening Shade, Okla.

Vincent had eight brothers and three sisters with whom he maintained close relationships throughout his lifetime. He attended grammar school in Vian, Okla., later transferring to Sequoyah High School, in Tahlequah, Okla., where he graduated in 1966.

After graduation, he was drafted into the military, where he proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Vincent completed training in San Diego, Calif., and infantry training at Camp Pendleton. Afterward, he was sent to Okinawa, Japan and then onto Dong Ha, South Vietnam, five miles from DMZ, where he witnessed and experienced extreme daily combat for 13 months.

He returned to the U.S. in 1970 and received an honorable discharge that same year. His highest rank while in the service was an E-3. During his military service, he earned the Rifle Marksmanship Medal, Pistol Sharp Shooter, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. He also took great pride in being an active member in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Color Guard.

After returning home from serving in the military, Vincent attended and graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University, in Lawrence, Kan. He also attended Northeastern State University, in Tahlequah, Okla. In 1980, he began driving buses for Trailways until 1991 and started driving semi-trucks until 2003 when he retired. Vincent was an avid hunter throughout his lifetime. He especially loved to fish and coonhunt.

Vincent was preceded in death by his: parents, Jess L. and Ella Locust; paternal grandparents, Louis and Katey Locust; maternal grandparents Leslie and Susannah Beaver; brothers, Oaks Locust, Mike McConnell, Charles 'Rock' Locust, Abe Locust and sister, Paula Locust.

Survivors include his: sons, Jeff Locust, of the home and Brian Locust and wife, Susan, of Fort Gibson, step-daughter, Angela R. Gilbreath, of Fort Gibson, Okla., and grandchildren, Taylor Locust and Brian Locust, II, both of Fort Gibson; brothers, Louis Locust, of Evening Shade, Leslie 'Jay' Locust and wife Sam of Fort Gibson and James 'Booter' Locust of Tahlequah; sisters, Mariah 'Cibby' Ballard of Evening Shade and Edith Dalton and husband Kenneth of Evening Shade as well as many loved nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, as well as other extended family and a lifetime of friends.

Pallbearers were: Calvin Deerinwater, Gary Morris, Rodney Barnett, Roger 'Crow' Collins, Buck Locust, Les Locust, Jr. and Brian Locust II.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Junior Barnoskie, Herbert St. John, Ed Deerinwater, Leroy Springwater, Johnson Teehee, Charlie Buck, Marshall Thompson and Newman Thompson.

Funeral services honoring Vincent's life were held April 18 at Vian Creek Baptist Church in Evening Shade with Gill Hooper officiating. Visitation was scheduled April 17 at Mallory Funeral Home in Sallisaw, Okla., with burial at Barnoskie Cemetery under the direction of Agent Mallory Martin Funeral Home in Sallisaw.

JULY TULSA



BRISTOW, Okla. — July Tulsa was born July 6, 1916 in Bristow to Joe and Sinda Tulsa. He was called to take his place in heaven March 10, 2015 at the age of 98 with his family by his side.

He was orphaned at a very young age and was left to raise himself. He was placed in a boarding school and left with only a second grade education. Later, he became employed and married Mae Long. They added eight children to their union. They bought a home in Tulsa, Okla., and later moved to the Liberty Mounds area after retiring from Yuba Heat.

July was a strong, quiet and humble man who was well respected in his community for his relationship with the Lord and for his age. He was a full-blooded Muscogee (Creek) citizen and fluent in his language as well as his singing. He was a member of Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church where he was the church bell ringer for many years until his health prevented him from doing so.

July was preceded in death by his: parents, Joe and Sinda Tulsa; wife Mae; brothers, Fixico and Dave Tulsa; sister, Soma Tiger and infant twin sisters; daughter, Marilyn Tulsa; son, Joe Monroe Tulsa and foster son, Garry Berryhill who he raised as his own; grandsons, Derek Timenatwa, Ronald Joe Choate and Christopher Owens.

Left to cherish his memory are his: sons, Anthony Tulsa of Tulsa, Jonathan Tulsa of Mounds; daughters, Gloria Jean Tulsa Ware of Coweta, Okla., Genelle Tulsa Myer of Mounds,

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

TULSA CONT.

Juanita (Pete) Tulsa Thompson of Mounds and Katherine Tulsa of the home; 17 Grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren and one niece, Nora Factor of Henryetta, Okla., as well as a close friend who he was always joking with, Carnie Monday.

A wake service was held March 12 and the funeral was March 13, both at Pickett Chapel with Paul Fixico and Nelson Harjo Sr. officiating. His final resting place was, South Heights Cemetery in Sapulpa, Okla.

Pallbearers were his grandsons: Paul Thompson, Chris (Bud) Mathews, Johno Thompson, Kyle Mathews, Carlin Thompson and Kris Krueger.

Honorary Pallbearers were: David Tulsa, Rylan Tulsa, James Proctor, Mike Settlemeyre, Jimmy Factor, Gbon Choate, Malachi Gadlage, Russell Gadlage Jr., Gary Tulsa, Garry Berryhill Jr., Lewis Tulsa, John Wayne Tulsa, Pete Tulsa, Warren Myer Jr. and the United Methodist Men of Pickett Chapel.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Craig and Jennifer Lamb,

Magna Hospice, RN Tammy Harrington, Tim Hunt, Richard Ventoris and Lucille

Brown. We also would like to thank Morning Star Ministries, the Duck Creek Indian Community and Pickett Chapel.

A special thanks to Melba Skeeter, Angela Krause, Carnie Monday, Janice Tiger and Dennis Barnett. To the many who brought food, sent a flower, sang a song, came to visit or offered a prayer; your act of kindness are remembered and much appreciated by July's family.

As we miss our beloved dad, grandpa and uncle; we can still see him sitting in the yard having a malt and waving at every car that drove by. Thank you LORD for the many years that we had him. A job well done, a good and faithful servant, until we meet again! The family of July Tulsa MVTO!

Diabetes prevention program comes to communities

Citizen/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — New activities are available at the Elderly Nutrition Programs for the communities of Weleekta and Okemah, Okla. Classes are part Zumba, chair exercises, strength and 100 percent fun. The class offers challenges with incentive gifts presented at various intervals of the class.

The program is for diabetes prevention and open to both men and women. Classes run thru August and the schedule is as follows: May 21, June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30, and Aug. 13.

Note time changes: Okemah classes meet from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Weleetka classes are held 1-2 p.m.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Julie Bryant, MS physical education, has taught Zumba the last two years at the Diabetes Summit.

For more information, contact Bryant at: 918-895-3492 or 615-473-6769.

INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR MAY 16

SAPULPA, Okla. — Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church has set and Indian taco fund-raiser for May 16 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 17610 S. Hickory St., Sapulpa, OK.

Adult meals will cost \$8, children \$4 and proceeds will go towards the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference apportionment expenses.

For more information contact June at: 918-752-6139.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR MAY 23

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — A Wachoche family reunion has been set for 12 p.m., May 23 at Benjamin W. Hall on the Bacone College campus in Muskogee.

The event is potluck and meat will be provided. Please bring a side dish, drink and desert.

Also, please bring bingo items, lawn chairs and old pictures.

For more information call: 918-948-4588.

32-year MCN employee retires



Gary Fife/MNN
A retirement reception was held April
30 for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food
Distribution Program Certification
Specialist Rosie Berryhill.

MCN Food Distribution/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. Rosie began working with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program in October 1983 during the Claude A. Cox administration. She has worked with every principal chief since: Bill Fife, R. Perry Beaver, A.D. Ellis and currently George Tiger. During this time, Rosie has seen the program through times of great change from her early days of being the secretary and setting outside in the hallway, which served as her office workstation.

She went from doing all paperwork by hand to going paperless by the time she retired. Nobody deserves to take it easy more than Rosie. In her 32 years, she has put so much into this program that it is impossible to imagine what it would have been like if she had never worked here. Rosie was committed to FDP. She always strived to do her best and also inspired everyone else around her.

We wish Rosie the best on her retirement. We hope she enjoys it and whatever new activities she turns to. Thank you for your service and being such an inspiration but most of all, thank you for being a friend.

Congratulations on a wonderful career and best wishes for the next phase. It has been our pleasure to know and work with you. We wish you a long, healthy and happy life.

GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR JUNE 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Okmulgee First Indian Baptist Church has set a gospel singing for 2 p.m., June 6 at 1700 W. Eufaula in Okmulgee.

Concessions will be available and please bring lawn chairs.

For more information contact Freddie Lowe: 918-843-2265.

CHURCH CENTENNIAL SET FOR JUNE 13

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — Hutche Chuppa Indian Baptist Church has set a centennial church celebration for June 13 starting at 11 a.m.

Dinner will be served after the event.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR JUNE 20

WETUMKA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Nehar and Sallie Yahola has been set for June 20 at Salt Creek United Methodist Church starting at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome and please bring a potluck dish for lunch.

BENEFIT POWWOW SET FOR JUNE 20

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The fourth annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powow is set for June 20 at the Bacone College student life center, 2414 E. Shawneee Bypass in Muskogee.

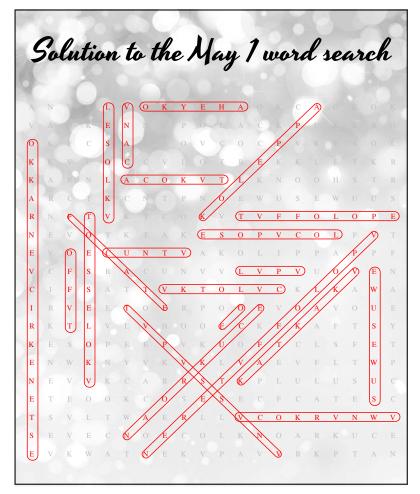
For event information call: 918-682-2586. For vendor information call: 918-616-4577.

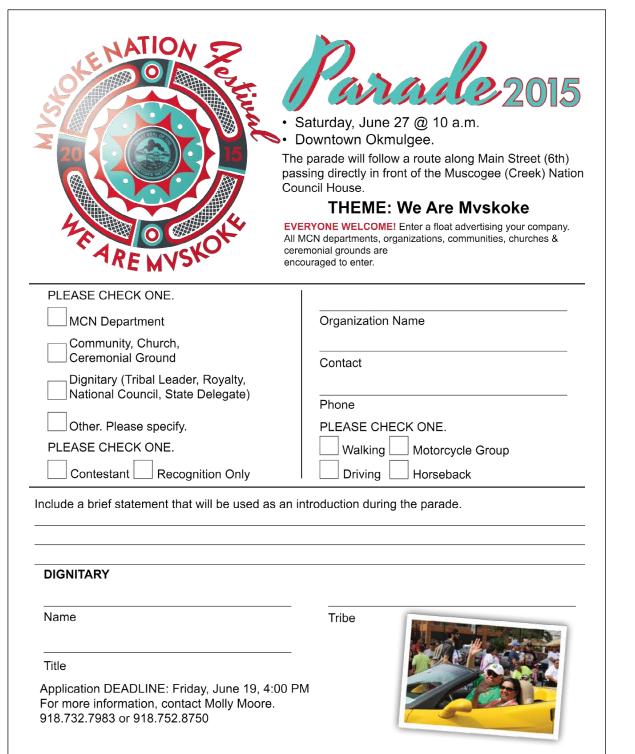
CMCA GATHERING SET FOR AUG. 1

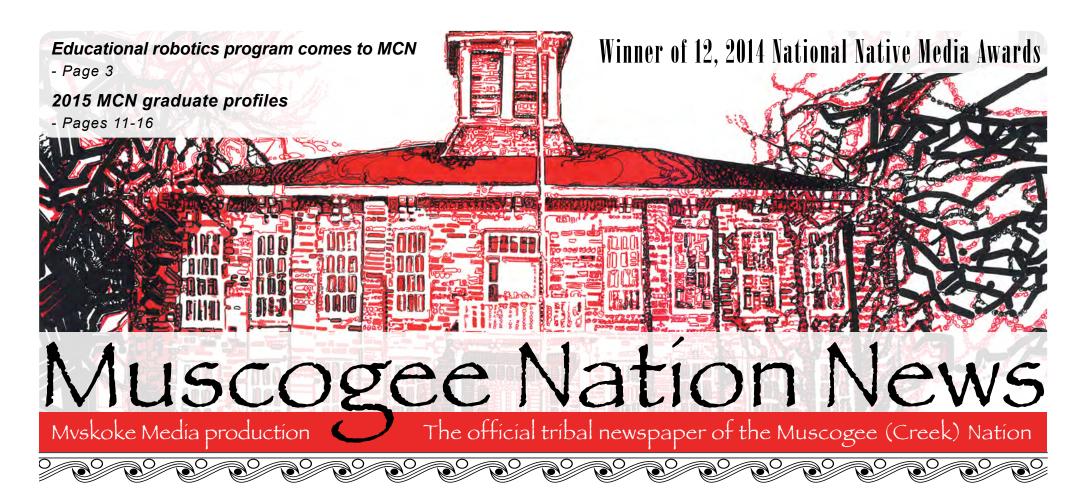
RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an annual gathering for Aug. 1 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia, Ave, Riverside CA, 92503.

For more information contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554 or jeannars@yahoo.com.









Petition to remove Tiger misses deadline

Principal chief, petitioners share views on outcome

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Muscogee (Creek) citizens calling for the impeachment of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger failed to submit the petition for removal by a deadline set for May 18 at 5 p.m.

Petition filer Shelly Brandy-Harjo and supporters known as the Creek Movement held a press conference that evening at the Best Western Hotel in Okmulgee.

Brandy-Harjo announced that the petition did not receive enough signatures in time.

"We have been working diligently to count all of the petitions and as of today, there were still petitions coming after the deadline. It has been a long, hard road but with all of our hard work, we fell a few short," Brandy-Harjo said.

Brandy-Harjo stated that the petition did not reach the required signatures, which amounted to 3,290 as told to her by the MCN Election Board.

She said that given the shortfall, it was not worth risking the exposure of some who signed by



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left) and the Creek Movement organization (right) held separate press conferences in response to the outcome of a petition to impeach Tiger

turning it in.

"I did not turn in the petition to protect the citizens and the tribal

It has been hard when our principal chief intimidates and threatens our citizens," Brandy-Harjo said.

In response to the failed petition, Tiger held a news conference May 19 at the Executive Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

"I believe the small group that was behind the petition, even though they didn't garner enough signatures, have a right to be able to do that," Tiger said.

Tiger said he has not threatened any interruption of tribal assistance to employees or

"Because we have laws and policies that are not only mandated by the federal government, but our own tribal laws that allows their qualificants to receive services without any political ramifications," Tiger

CM Co-Chairman Judd Pickering is asking the MCN National Council to continue investigations into the current

administration.

"We ask the National Council tonight to continue to hold the principal chief accountable to the facts stated in their no confidence [legislation]. We ask that the National Council exhaust all options in investigating the current administration," Pickering said.

The Council passed 'No Confidence' legislation to request Tiger's resignation during a March 19 emergency session at the Mound Building on the MCN

Petition - 2

June 1, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 11 "Kvcohvse" Blackberry Month



Candidate amendment veto override fails during Council session

Housing, CRD receive funding for community center repairs

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held May 16 at the Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The Council started by voting to override a veto on:

• NCA 15-025 Amending MCN Code Annotated, Title 19, Section 5-102 titled, 'Candidate must be registered and take leave from employment with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.' Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the amendment.

Tribal employees seeking to run for MCN political office must take leave from their positions during the campaign period. The legislation would allow said employees to use their available paid annual and personal leave during this

According to the MCN Election Board's attorney Klint Cowan, his opinion is that the board's intentions with this legislation were different than that of the bill's sponsor.

"The representatives who sponsored it just didn't think that it was fair that employees of the tribe had to basically resign or take leave without pay in order to register and run as a candidate," Cowan said.

Cowan said that the board wanted another MCN entity to be legally responsible for ensuring that MCN employees who registered as candidates took the leave required (MCN Code Annotated, Title 19, Section 5-102: 'leave without pay') upon registering.

"So we just wanted that section taken out of the election code. So we supported it being deleted because that would make it easier for us but we'd also be fine with just moving it

Council - 8

Muscogee (Creek) citizen wounded by security guard

Family holds protest contesting decision not to prosecute

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator Sterling Cosper/Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The forecast called for rain May 7, as protestors with umbrellas lined S. Denver Avenue near downtown Tulsa.

"Justice for Monroe," Mount Miracle Temple Calvary Apostolic Church of Okmulgee Johnny Pastor Magness chanted, "Right now," the crowd responded.

Johnny Magness is the stepfather to Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III (21), who was shot Feb. 4, following an encounter with security guard Ricky Stone at the Deerfield Estates Apartment Complex in Tulsa.

Bird, who is also African American, is now quadriplegic — paralyzed from the neck down.



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Johnny Magness, stepfather of Monroe Bird III leads a protest May 7 at the Tulsa County District Attorney Office in Tulsa, Okla.

His family led supporters protesting Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler's decision to not prosecute Stone for the incident.

"So that's why we're here...

he's (Bird) incarcerated in his own body the rest of his life and the person who shot him should have to suffer something," Johnny Magness said.

Kunzweiler said that the

evidence presented is insufficient to prove that Stone's actions were criminal.

The family is represented by attorney Benjamin Crump, who represented the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown in police involved shooting incidents in other

Family spokesperson Tezlyn Figaro said that Bird's case differs from the others in that Bird is still alive.

"It's so important that his voice is heard because he's still alive," Figaro said.

According to on the scene media coverage in the 'Tulsa World' and KOTV Channel 6, Bird was sitting inside his vehicle in the complex parking lot where his sister lives.

Stone knocked on the window and asked for identification for Bird and the 15-year-old white female in the vehicle with him.

According to Kunzweiler, Bird

Wounded-4



MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

MCN hosts second annual 'Day' at the Capitol



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Entities from throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction came May 14 to the Oklahoma State Capitol to share MCN culture and the services offered by the Nation.

Departments, programs represent Nation in OKC

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State Capitol welcomed the Muscogee (Creek) Nation May 14 to help educate the public about the tribe.

"This is the second consecutive year that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been asked to come to the Oklahoma State Capitol to share information about our great Mvskoke Nation, our people and culture," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said.

The event also featured MCN services. "We are proud to be in

the state capitol representing our people and to have so many of our tribal programs tribe and departments present."

MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks was on-hand to speak to MCN participants as well as guests who made their way around the informational booths.

"This allows the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to come here to the heart of Oklahoma and display all of the services we have to offer for our citizens, and showcase all of the new resources," Hicks said. "Not only does this event allow our Nation to educate people about the services all our departments have to offer, it also raises awareness on tribal news."

Hicks spoke of the importance of having 'MCN

Day' at the Capitol.

"We are continuously as a tribe growing and providing," Hicks said. "Whether it is new elderly housing, new scholarships or new health clinics, we are constantly as a tribe expanding and are excited to share the news to those who might not know these services are being provided to them."

Hicks said he is very happy that the relationship between the two governments helped make this event happen.

"I am very proud that both state and tribal leaders can come together and share in common goal of educating reaching out to a community to better provide and help their citizens," Hicks said.

PETITION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tribal Complex.

Council Speaker Thomas Yahola said they voted on the issue after receiving concerns from citizens.

"The way this started, it was the article in the Sunday 'Tulsa World' and we had a lot of calls at this office and Council representatives from citizens about the article and their embarrassment," Yahola said.

The March 8 article called into question the legality of a business deal between Tiger and the Kialegee Tribal Town regarding a proposed Kialegee run casino in Broken Arrow.

The deal raised concerns regarding the possibility of competition with MCN gaming and a potential conflict of interest through Tiger's involvement with it, in reference to the timing of his election to MCN political office.

"If there was any inkling of wrong-doing according to the Constitution, which I took an oath to uphold, I would not make a decision last week to seek re-election for this highest office of Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Tiger said.

Tiger went on to say he believes the petition was never a scandal.

"There was never a controversy or issue with the Muscogee people. It was in the media and it was expanded upon by my political opponents, not the citizens," Tiger said.

Brandy-Harjo does not feel the petition was for political gain.

"None of us are running for office. So how is it a political move?" Brandy-Harjo said.

The petition was filed with the Election Board March 17 and CM was given 60 days to collect signatures. Because the deadline was during the weekend, the board moved it to Monday, May 18.

The attention of both sides has turned to the upcoming officer elections. The Creek Movement encouraged citizens to exercise their right to vote and said they will endorse other candidates.

According to the MCN Constitution Article VIII: "A signed petition showing

cause of removal containing twenty (20) percent of the registered voters of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be cause to consider removal of the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and/or any member of the Supreme Court. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the National Council shall be required for the removal from office."

The candidate-filing period for the upcoming election is July 21-23.

If a candidate fails to receive 50 percent of the vote during the Sept. 19 primaries, a general election will be held Nov. 7.

MCN welcomes Native business conference to Tulsa



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Cultural tourism panelists discuss sharing culture and its effect on local economies and small business owners during the Trading on the River Conference May 5 at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

ONABEN promotes discussion on cultural tourism

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Native Americans from across the United States gathered May 5-6 to discuss economic development and 'Indianpreneurship' during the 13th annual Trading on the River conference at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa.

The event is put on by Our Native American Business Network, which is a non-profit organization based out of Oregon.

"ONABEN spends a lot of teaching entrepreneurs that they need to grow their business and we as ONABEN, it's time to grow our business and get out into Indian Country," ONABEN Board Chairman Jack Lenox said.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief spoke at the opening ceremony. "We have come a long way as Indian people. We are honored to have you choose Muscogee (Creek) Nation

as the first stop outside of

the Northwest," Tiger said.

The conference included panels on topics such as growing home-based businesses,

the impact of tribal governmental economic growth on small Native-owned businesses and cultural tourism. Chickasaw Nation Tour-

Chickasaw Nation Tourism Director Paige Williams explained cultural tourism as, "The full range of experiences that visitors can undertake to understand what makes a destination distinctive: its lifestyles, its heritage, its art, its people."

According to Williams, tourism allows tribal governments to increase economic development to fund services for citizens. Williams used her employer

Chickasaw Nation as an example.
According to Williams, Chickasaw Nation did not promote itself as destination until the infrastructure was complete to ensure a positive experience, although some specific entities self-promoted up until that point.

promoted up until that point.

Williams encouraged tribes to partner with the local communities within their respective jurisdictions to create a cohesive brand.

The Five Civilized Tribes have partnered to develop a tribal brand for the state titled OK Native Travel.

"We recognize the fact that when people visit Oklaho-

ma, one of their primary reasons for visiting Oklahoma is for culture," Williams said. "One thing we elected to do in promotion is we elected to not promote any gaming."

Williams explained that the OK Native Travel campaign aims to showcase the similarities and differences between the tribes. The campaign website: www.OKNativeTravel.com, contains a video and links to the tourism pages of each FCT.

MCN Tourism and Recreation Department Director Will Lowe explained that TR was initially developed to plan the annual MCN Festival and evolved into being, "traffic drivers...marketing, anything and everything Muscogee (Creek)."

TR is participating in the Okmulgee community assessment along with other local entities such as the Okmulgee Main Street Association and the City of Okmulgee to promote tourism in the MCN capitol city.

"This being the MCN Capitol, what benefits the community also benefits the Nation," Lowe said. "We're excited to partner with community businesses and entities to make Okmulgee a better place."

Educational robotics program comes to MCN

Botball provides hands-on training

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation in collaboration with the KISS **Institute for Practical Robotics** hosted the inaugural MCN Junior Botball Challenge May 9 at the Myskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

Participants showed off their science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) knowledge by programming robots to perform a series of tasks.

"I think it's amazing that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has the foresight to put the Junior Botball Challenge in their schools, as they know STEM jobs are so important," said KISS Institute for Practical Robotics STEM Specialist Carol Goodgame.

According to the website, the Junior Botball Challenge is a sustainable program that provides reusable equipment, standards-aligned software, curriculum and professional development opportunities to teach elementary students code writing and cover engineering design standards.

"Botball was presented at a conference last summer that I attended," MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett said. "I came back and talked to Dr. Johnson, we had an initial meeting with the botball



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Henryetta Elementary School third grade teacher Ashley Corn helps a student May 9 during the inaugural Muscogee (Creek) Nation Junior Botball Challenge at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

folks and decided it was something we wanted to bring to the Nation."

The Council approved \$94,353 to implement the program as administered by the MCN Department of Education and Training.

With the funds, MCN sponsored 40 teams throughout the MCN jurisdiction, targeting fifth graders.

MCN required sponsored teams to have 75 percent Native American participation, and 50 percent female participation.

The participants were comprised of 300 students, from 77 teams and 18 schools.

"Today there are eight challenges, our curriculum has 17 and counting but today the students will try to complete eight of them," Goodgame said.

The challenges range from having the robot touch a can, go around the can, building bulldozer like attachments to collect the cans and more.

The teams competed against the challenges rather than each other. Teams members are given a button when they complete a challenge.

Teams that complete all the challenges are given a trophy.

Henryetta Elementary School third grade teacher Ashley Corn shared her thoughts about Botball.

"We've only been in Botball for about a month now... it's been a great learning experience for our kids," Corn said.

Henryetta's teams consisted of fourth and fifth grade students.

"They got to see other schools doing challenges and doing challenges that we have yet to learn," Corn said. "We thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for having us. It's been an awesome day."

For more information visit: www.juniorbotballchallenge. org.

Event held to raise teen pregnancy awareness

MCN supports cause through proclamation

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Nation Youth Services hosted a teen pregnancy awareness event May 6 at the College of the Muscogee Nation campus in Okmulgee.

"We want to give tips on how parents and teens can discuss these taboo subjects.

"A lot of people believe that kids aren't having sex but in reality they are.

"So we want to help them to be able to talk about it and get that out in the open to prepare our youth to making the right decisions," MNYS Director Nancy Mason said.

According a proclamation by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger declaring this date as the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy for MCN, the State of Oklahoma is currently ranked fourth in the United States for teen pregnancies.

The proclamation states that although rates have gone down across the country, Native American youth experience more teen pregnancy compared to the overall population.

Attendees of the awareness event were invited to take the National Day Quiz on the importance of teen pregnancy pre-

"This quiz give them a better understanding and delivers important messages for teenagers," Mason said.

Resource booths sponsored by various MCN entities and from others throughout the tribal jurisdiction were on-hand to give out their information to the public.

One of the sponsors was Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, which started a movement called 'I'm Committed.

"With committing to yourself for the betterment of you, you are making the decisions and the right choices for a better future.

"When you aren't aware or do not make the right choices, unfortunate things can happen such as unplanned pregnancies or contacting an STD," PPH Title X Family Planning Program Director Melonie Mayes-Tyler

One individual, who was a teen mother and wished to remain anonymous, explained her situation when she was preg-

"It was very tough, being a mother and a student.

"At first, I wanted to stop going to school and focus on my baby but fortunately I had help from my family. I know a lot of young mothers do not have that and they do have to drop out of school and for some of them, it is hard to finish and get your diploma," she said.

MCN holds fourth annual Senior Games



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joyce Lee practicing her throw for the bean bag toss May 8 during the fourth annual Senior Games.

Athletes come out for day of fun, competition

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Games were held May 8 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee for Muscogee (Creek) citizens ages 55 and older.

The day opened with registration and a welcoming address from MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

"I look forward to everyone having a great time," Tiger said. "This is a great event and I know that we have some people here who are ready to compete."

After Tiger spoke to the

competitors, they were able to break out into a networking session and meet with some vendors from various MCN and external entities.

The event featured a fitness walk and Zumba class as a warm

"I believe the Senior Games is very important for the participants," MCN Senior Services Acting Manager Steven Wahnee said. "They all can get together but overall it is great exercise."

Wahnee said some of the elders do not like to get out and therefore get little exercise.

"We want them to rejuvenate themselves and to get reacquainted with friends they might not have seen in a while," Wahnee said.

MCN Senior Services Secretary Christy Carson is happy with the collaborative effort put forth by event organizers. "There are three depart-

ments who work in this together and we could not have done it without them," Carson said. "We each play a role in making these games move forward and with all departments getting together, it makes the games so much better."

After lunch, the competitors spilt up for various activities.

"We divided up the groups for both men and women this year," Wahnee said. "This year, we have it from 55 to 65-yearsof-age and 66 on up for the divisions."

Wahnee said that the athletes' drive remains despite their age and although bad weather from the previous day dampened the ground, it did not dampen their spirits.

"It does get pretty intense with the game," Wahnee said. "They have been competitors and will always be competi-

The games were: free throw contest, horseshoes, bean bag toss, softball throw and jacks.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joyce Lee recently moved back to the MCN jurisdiction and heard about the event through word-of-mouth.

"I signed up for a couple of games and to see how I do," Lee

Although Lee did not place in her events, she brought back something she feels is a lot better, new friends and memories.

"Just look at the smiles on everyone's faces," Lee said. "I am glad I met a lot of people today and the new friendships I made. We may be up there in age, but we are still trying and we are still competing and it shows here at the games."

Day Center hosts annual charity softball game



Muscogee (Creek) citizen and 'Native News Today' Multimedia Supervisor Jason Salsman prepares to swing during the Home Run for the Homeless celebrity benefit softball game held May 12 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa, Okla., by the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless.

'Native News Today' host plays for less fortunate

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless held the ninth annual Home Run for the Homeless celebrity benefit softball game May 12 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa.

According to their website, the Day Center is the only daytime shelter for the homeless in the

"We are a shelter but we are so much more than that," Day Center Executive Director Sandra Lewis said. "We work diligently everyday to get folks off the streets and get them into homes."

The game brings celebrity participants from media outlets that serve northeastern Oklahoma and is between the 'TV Team' and 'Radio/Writer Team.'

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and 'Native News Today' Multimedia Supervisor Jason Salsman played for the 'TV Team.'

"It is wonderful to play in the game," Salsman said. "We get to play in a great setting and we are raising money for the Tulsa Day Center and to help out the homeless."

Salsman feels that playing in the game can bring awareness to the Native American homeless population.

"If they watch 'Native News Today' and see me out here with a great group of people raising money for the homeless, then we are doing our jobs," Salsman

This is Salsman's fourth year participating and this year he was selected as Most Valuable Player.

Salsman went 2-2 with a double and single, scoring both times and helping pull out a 3-2 victory for 'TV Team.'

"I had a great time," Salsman said. "I love to play softball and have always played. When the opportunity arose, I knew I wanted to play in this game."

The Day Center mission is to provide a safe and healthy environment for people who are homeless and offer them opportunities and encouragement for achieving self-sufficiency.

The center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We are housing one person a day every year," Lewis said. "So that is our goal is to move people out of homelessness as quickly as possible and get them into homes."

EVENT CENTER

AT RIVER SPIRIT

WOUNDED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

backed his vehicle into Stone, causing him to roll onto the trunk and into the back window. Stone then fired three shots at the vehicle, hitting Bird once in the neck. Bird is now quadriplegic, paralyzed from the neck down.

A copy of the police investigation was requested by the 'Muscogee Nation News' through a Tulsa Police Department open records request, but was denied unless requested under subpoena.

Kunzweiler said investigation includes accounts from Stone and the female witness.

Bird was interviewed, but was unable to remember the incident.

Security video was not provided by the apartment complex, and no other eyewitness accounts were reported.

Discrepancies have risen regarding whether or not the security guard fired his weapon in the seconds after being hit by the vehicle, or as Bird was driving away.

After the vehicle hit Stone, it was shifted into drive and drove into a tree.

Kunzweiler stated that according to Stone's testimony, the shots were fired within milliseconds of being hit by the vehicle. The family finds it difficult to comprehend that Bird was capable of putting the vehicle into drive after he had been shot in the neck.

The young female witness fled the scene after the shooting, but was interviewed by police the next morning.

Kunzweiler said that the witness' testimony was identical to that of the security guard.

The family disagrees with the findings of the witness' interview. They are also upset that they did not have a chance for justice.

an opportunity to present the for Bird's medical expenses. facts to a jury of their peers, to present the facts to a grand jury or whatever... they took that away," Figaro said.

Kunzweiler said that if family has additional information about the incident that he would consider it.

"I've basically made a ruling at this point based upon what I was provided, that it was a justified shooting... I left them with the understanding that no case is really ever closed," Kunzweiler "If there's additional evidence that develops that's inconsistent with what I have or what I have received, then I obviously would reopen or reconsider it."

Kunzweiler explained that the actions of the security guard were justified under Oklahoma's self-defense laws. He said that under the law, the security guard would be entitled to protect himself because he was hit with the vehicle.

"Oklahoma's self defense law exists for a reason and that is to afford every citizen absolute right to defend themselves when they're put in the position of fear of death or great bodily harm," Kunzweiler said.

He said that he is not placing any burden of proof on the family, but on law enforcement.

"I will acknowledge it's a very tragic situation. But I have to make a decision whether or not somebody ought to be charged with a crime and I have the obligation to evaluate whether someone had the right to defend

themselves, so that's what I did in this case," Kunzweiler said.

Tulsa Police Department Homicide Detective Sgt. Dave Walker said that the investigation was a typical investigation and he had no reason to believe that race was a factor in the incident.

"The investigation ran its course and there wasn't anything that was, other than obviously the tragedy of the event that stood out to me," Walker said.

Figaro said that the family questions the motivation of the shooting incident and whether race is a factor because of the way the case has been handled.

"This family has been beyond patient," she said. "...This is a hard working family... it's just not fair."

Bird's family is also curious about the job duties of the security guard and whether or not he should have contacted police instead of handling the situation as it played out.

"I think the general understanding was, like most people, is the security guard is there to protect public property," Figaro said. "... And you would think that if there was something criminally being done wrong, then you call the people who investigate crimes and that's the police department."

In a story reported May 13 by 'The Frontier,' according to police records obtained by the outlet, Stone was found with marijuana in his vehicle at the time of the shooting.

'MNN' contacted Kunzweiler regarding this allegation, and did not receive a statement by press time.

Figaro said that records still have the case status as pending and the attorney and family have had to file an open records request to get information about the incident.

The family recently learned that the health insurance "For the DA to not even give company has denied coverage

> Figaro estimates that the approximate cost of medical accumulated expenses upwards of six figures.

> Because of the coverage denial, Bird will be unable to receive rehabilitation and medical attention tailored to his condition.

> Figaro has said that Bird's desire to remain strong is waning and he is requesting that a Do Not Resuscitate Order be signed.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Bird's mother Zondra Magness has taken leave from her job so that she can care for Bird after he is sent home.

He has a breathing machine and feeding tube and must have his body adjusted regularly to prevent bedsores.

According to church members, Zondra Magness has not left her youngest child's side except to attend church on Sundays.

Miracle Mount Calvary Temple Apostolic Church has 30-40 regularly attending members.

Bird attended church every Sunday, and sometimes played drums during the service.

Church members describe Bird as a polite, mild-mannered, "all-around good kid."

Church members said they were in a state of shock at the incident and continue to pray for Bird. They fully expect him to return to church.

For more information about the family's cause, visit: www. standformonroe.com.





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CMN receives USDA grant, starts community garden

Earth Day celebrated with groundbreaking

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation celebrated Earth Day April 22 by breaking ground for the Myskoke Cultural Community Garden. The garden will include trees and plants that were utilized by the Muscogee (Creek) people prior to forced Removal from Alabama and Georgia.

The garden will serve many purposes.

It will function as an outdoor classroom. For example, the detention pond will be utilized by students for water quality research experience and will also administer drip irrigation for plant beds.

The plant beds will be used to grow produce for the CMN

student union café and the elderly nutrition centers throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction.

CMN Native American Studies Instructor Norma Marshall started the initial garden in 2010 with donated seeds and students worked it by hand.

"This all began with an effort to bring back the holistic food system of the Muscogee people as in the days of our elders and our ancestors from the homelands," Marshall said.

The garden was made possible by a \$145,302 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. CMN is eligible for USDA funds because it was designated as a land-grant college under the Improving America's School Act of 1994.

USDA Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights Dr. Joe Leonard Jr., Rural Development State Director

Ryan McMullen and Rural Development Acting Program Director Jerry Efurd were onsite for the groundbreaking.

"I can't think of a better place to be to celebrate Earth Day and most especially when you are doing a groundbreaking on a garden and a garden that began as a person's passion informally," Leonard said.

According to McMullen, MCN is the most engaged tribal partner in the state.

"The project is really in line with what Earth Day is about. It is about conservation; it is about preservation. Certainly, the Muscogee (Creek) people have a rich agrarian heritage of caring for the land, preserving cultural, conserving natural resources," McMullen said.

The garden will be located on the southwest corner of the

New discoveries from old memories

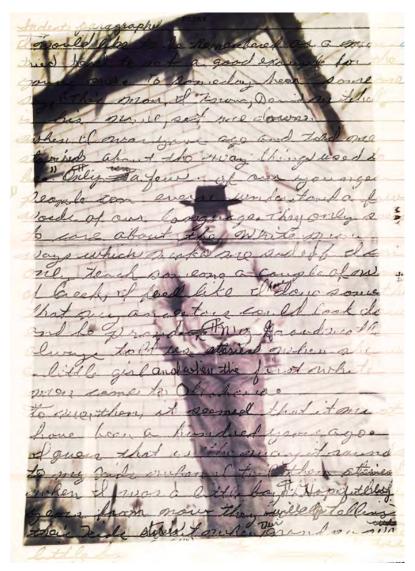


Photo composition by: Amanda Rutland/MNN

A photo of David Mitchell at 20-years-old imposed on his handwritten letter.

Sharing ideas of a generation passed

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — I was looking through some old papers in the metal box where we always kept important documents when I was living at home. I love discovering things I did not know.

I found an essay my dad had written in 1990. He apparently was trying to get his GED through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Adult Education Department. I never knew he attempted to get his GED. The highest level of education he ever completed was the eighth grade.

He always encouraged my sister and I to get an education. He would say, "Don't be a dummy like me." As of April 24, both my

918.732.7983 or 918.752.8750

sister and I are college graduates.

The topic of the essay was what struck me most. It was titled, 'How I Want to be Remembered.

I will share it with you now:

"I would like to be remembered as a man who tried hard to set a good example for the young ones. To someday hear some one say 'This man I know, David Mitchell, is his name, set me down when I was your age and told me stories about the way things used to be.'

Only a few of our younger people can even understand a few words of our language. They only seem to care about the white man ways, which makes me sad. If I can only teach someone a couple of words of Creek, I feel like I done something that my ancestors could look down and be proud.

My grandmother always told us stories when she was a little girl and when the first white man came to Oklahoma. To me, then, it seemed that it must have been a hundred years ago. I guess that is the way it sounds to my kids when I tell them stories when I was a little boy.

Hopefully, years from now they will be telling their kids stories when their grandpa was a little boy and the stories he told about the old ways and the memories."

I never thought Dad was a dummy even though he never graduated high school and never completed his GED. Mvskoke was his first language and sometimes he found it hard to express exactly what he was trying to say in English.

I knew he was passionate about things that mattered like traditions, language and keeping his church, Tulmochussee, going.

After finishing the essay, I sat back and reflected on the content. I guess some things do not change. I assumed the pace at which we are losing our culture was a current issue.

I suppose though, that it has been an issue for Native Americans since initial European contact began to change things and as more time passes, more is lost.

I know it is not a lost cause as long as stecates (Native Americans) champion our traditions. It was touching to read long lost words of an old man so close to my heart.

I am proud that we unknowingly fulfill his hopes every time we share experiences and memories with my children, especially since he passed before my youngest was born.

I hope all of you Mvskokvlke reading this will share your stories too.

-Mvto,

Kvco

(Blackberry- my Mvskoke ame from my father.)

Saturday, June 27 @ 10 a.m. Downtown Okmulgee. The parade will follow a route along Main Street (6th) passing directly in front of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House. THEME: We Are Mvskoke **EVERYONE WELCOME!** Enter a float advertising your company. All MCN departments, organizations, communities, churches & ceremonial grounds are encouraged to enter. PLEASE CHECK ONE MCN Department Organization Name Community, Church, Ceremonial Ground Contact Dignitary (Tribal Leader, Royalty, National Council, State Delegate) Phone Other. Please specify. PLEASE CHECK ONE. PLEASE CHECK ONE. Walking L Motorcycle Group Contestant Recognition Only Driving Horseback Include a brief statement that will be used as an introduction during the parade. **DIGNITARY** Name Tribe Title Application DEADLINE: Friday, June 19, 4:00 PM For more information, contact Molly Moore.

Emvpanayv: 'One who tells a story'

More movie manure, the high price of selling out

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Is it OK to insult an entire race of people, just by labeling it a comedy?

thinking in the movie-making business. The latest example being a pile of horse apples called 'Ridiculous Six' by Adam Sandler. It's supposed to be a satire on the classic 'Magnificent Seven, the 1960 classic horse opera shoot-em-up starring around anymore.

Pity the same can't be said for Sandler.

In this case, he decided to insult the Apache people with the wrong culture, clothing, religious practice and the usual broken English dialogue. The picture was also trying to pass off a contemptible mockery of names for Native women as funny. As usual, the producers and movie brass are using the "it's only a joke" excuse for this

For cryin' out loud, I thought our society had grown past this crap. (Pardon the language. Decorum prevents me from writing what I really think.) In spite of all the advances we've made, some idiot decides this is the kind of movie to make.

Happy to say that most of the Native actors and cultural consultant decided not to have any more to do with the production and walked out.

Hurray for them. I'm hoping that the bad publicity for this heap of meadow muffins will kill the project and Sandler's pitiful career (although it doesn't seem like it would take much to do that.) Word has it, the movie talk to anyone, especially the Native press. What's the matter, are they ashamed of it?

While I'm busy kicking someone while they're down, here's another:

The chair of the Utah Paiutes was kicked out of office for accepting gifts and travel from the Disneyland-On-The-Potomac professional football team. Gari Lafferty was charged with accepting trinkets, a trip to watch a game and vehicles.

Of course, there's a lot of internal back and forth squabbling over ethics and beliefs that nothing wrong was done. The tribal council had the last word, though and that chicken. was 'adios.'

'Thirty pieces of silver' comes hope things dry out!

at a high price, huh?

Hey, did you see where Lvmhe — the eagle stopped work this spring near the Margaritaville construction? Machinery had come too near a nest with eaglets and the feather, fin and fur cops said that was too close. Cool, huh? But, when the little ones fly the nest later on, That still seems to be the work in that area will resume I presume.

Wilma Mankiller was not chosen as the candidate to send to the U.S. Treasury secretary for the new face to appear on the revised U.S. \$20. She was fourth. Harriet Tubman was voted in. Now, let's see if the a whole lot of stars that aren't Treasury department gets A. Jackson off the bill.

> And... recently, CNN reported on the 13, 'Best places to experience Native American culture?

Oklahoma just barely made the list with one at #13—the Gilcrease Museum.

Here's one idea I had for the list: the half-finished American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City.

Under the latest plan, OKC might be given the site to develop on its own. The 'Tulsa World' thinks the Indian center idea should be scrapped.

Under a last-minute-lastsecond funding bill at the end of this last legislative session, \$25 million was approved to finish the half-finished museum.

Let's hope so. I'm kinda tired of wondering whether this thing would ever get finished. The state project has been kicking around since 1994. OK, museum folks, it's your ball game now. Let's see what final comes out of this.

I see where Mvskoke writer and poet, Joy Harjo was recently married. She and Owen Sapulpa tied the knot. Much happiness to you both. Joy, did you play big shots clammed up and won't your sax during the reception?

> Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jonodev Chaudhuri was confirmed April 16 by the U.S. Senate to chair the National Indian Gaming Commission. He now has the job of overseeing the \$28 billion annual Indian gaming industry. Question: is he still going to stay out of Muscogee (Creek) Nation gaming issues?

> Did you get to attend any of the wild onion dinners? I made three of them. My compliments to the folks at Concharty for putting on a well-organized, tasty event. It was fine except for the huge guy just ahead of me who cleaned out all the fried

> Have a good summer. Let's

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEF CREEK NATION 2015 MAY 7 PM '1 29 Muscogee (Creek) Nation MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION Case No.: CV 2015- Le A (1) New England Firearms 20 Gauge Single Shot Gun, Pardner Model, Serial # Unknown NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENDED FORFEITURE THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Unknown, and all others claiming an interest in the above described property. You are hereby notified that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has seized and intends to forfeit the above described property under the provisions of MCNCA, Title 14, §1-901(I)(G) et seq. Said property was soized on or about the $16^{\rm HH}$ day of October 2014 by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse and forfeiture is sought for the reason that above said property has The owner, claimant or other party in interest may file a verified answer and claim to the above named property within forty-five days of notice after which time the Museogee (Creek) Nation will move the Court for an Order of Forfeiture for said property.

PO Box 580



NOON - 5:00PM

\$5 Match Play for every Diamond Club Member

Hot Seat Blitz Free Play Drawings

Ten (10) \$10 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes from NOON - 5:00PM. Players CAN win more than once!

Grill Giveaways

Diamond Club players who earn 500 points receive a complimentary portable grill and cooler set.



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Legal Notice

To <u>Native American Farmers or Ranchers</u> or the heir of one who was denied a <u>USDA farm loan</u> or loan servicing between 1981 and late 1999

Some funds paid in settlement of *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* remain unclaimed and will be distributed in accordance with a process established by the Court. The case claimed that USDA discriminated against Native Americans who applied for or tried to apply for farm loans or loan servicing. The Court seeks input from class members about how the remaining funds should be distributed. Of the \$680 million paid to settle the case, approximately \$380 million remains. The Settlement Agreement approved by the Court directs that unclaimed funds be given to non-profit organizations to serve Native American farmers and ranchers.

The deadline to file a claim has passed. There is no new claims process.

Who is included?

The Class includes all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

- Farmed or ranched or attempted to do so between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999;
- Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA during that period; and
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA either on their own or through a representative during the time period.

The class does not include individuals who:

- Experienced discrimination only between January 1 and November 23 1997; or
- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and November 23, 1997.

Proposed use of the Funds

There are several competing options for how to distribute the funds.

First, Plaintiffs propose to modify the Settlement Agreement, subject to Court approval, to distribute the funds as follows:

- •\$342 million distributed by a Trust, overseen by Native American leaders, to non-profit groups to serve Native farmers & ranchers over a 20 year period.
- •\$38 million be distributed quickly to non-profit organizations serving Native farmers & ranchers, identified by Class Counsel and approved by the Court.

The Trust would make grants to organizations providing business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, or advocacy services to Native American farmers and ranchers, including those seeking to become farmers or ranchers, to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture. The USDA has agreed with this proposal.

Second, Marilyn Keepseagle proposes to distribute all remaining funds as additional damages paid to successful Track A claimants alone. The USDA opposes this proposal.

Third, other class members have asked to use the funds to pay claims that were initially denied or to permit new claims to be filed.

Fourth, the Choctaw Nation has argued that no changes should be made.

How can I share my views?

If you want to tell the Court of your support of or opposition to any proposal for use of the remaining funds, you may submit written comments, postmarked no later than **June 15**, **2015**, to:

Chambers of the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia 333 Constitution Avenue N.W. Washington, DC 20001

The Court will hold a hearing on **June 29, 2015** at **9:00 AM EDT** in Courtroom 24A at the address above. If you want to speak to the Court in person, you may attend the hearing. Your written comments will be considered by the Court even if you do not attend the hearing.

For more detailed information call 1-888-233-5506 or see www.IndianFarmClass.com

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to 'tribal government' or some other part of the code where we're not the ones who have to enforce it," Cowan said.

The override failed 4-12 with Reps. Joyce Deere, David Hill, Robert Hufft, James Jennings, David Nichols, Darrell Proctor, Mark Randolph, Lucian Tiger, Shirlene Ade, Dode Barnett, Pete Beaver and Thomas Yahola voting against it.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the following legislation:

• NCR 15-003 Selecting Dr. Michael Hughes to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise board of directors. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation cites that per MCN law, two members of the MNBE board must be selected by the Council.

Furthermore, that those selected must have a bachelor's degree plus five years of business management experience or executive management experience including but not limited to, CFO, CEO and COO or an advanced degree plus nine years of business management experience and that Hughes, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen meets these requirements.

The term is set to end April 30,

• NCR 15-004 Selecting James K. Byrd to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation cites that by MCN law, two members of the MNB LLC board must be selected by the Council.

Furthermore, that those selected must have a bachelor's degree plus five years of business management experience or executive management experience including but not limited to, CFO, CEO and COO or an advanced degree plus nine years of business management experience and that Byrd meets these requirements.

The term is set to end Jan. 31, 2018.

• NCR 15-005 Selecting Hughes to serve on the MNB LLC board of directors. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-

requirements cited The are the same as NCR 15-004 and the legislation states that Hughes meets them.

The term is set to end April 30, 2018.

• TR 15-069 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCN has the opportunity to purchase property north of and across the street from the MCN Council House that will allow for the development of: an MCN Cultural Center and Archives visitor center, department offices and archive storage space.

It states that CCA has the funds to purchase the property and authorizes the principal chief to apply to put it in trust.

• TR 15-071 Approving the MCN long-range transportation plan with the addition of the routes identified in the plan. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCN has completed and adopted said long-range plan in accordance with federal regulation 25 CFR Part 170, which can be viewed here: www.ecfr. gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/

ecfrbrowse/Title25/25cfr170 main 02.tpl.

It states that new routes have been identified within the MCN jurisdiction that are eligible to be included in the MCN's Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Transportation Program inventory.

According to the U.S. Federal Highways Administration, a LRTP is a document resulting from regional or statewide collaboration and consensus on a region or state's transportation system, and serving as the defining vision for the region's or state's transportation systems and services.

In metropolitan areas, the plan indicates all of the transportation improvements scheduled for funding over the next 20 years.

• TR 15-072 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the City of Morris for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that TTP has the funds available to improve roadways/bridges in the area designated as Indian reservation roads and has several projects proposed in its inventory. It also states that MCN and the city have an agreement that if the tribe constructs said roads in the area, that it is responsible for maintaining them.

• TR 15-073 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the City of Wetumka for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation reads the same as the previous as applied to this specific area and its projects.

• TR 15-074 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and Okmulgee County for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation reads the same as the previous two as applied to this specific are and its projects.

• TR 15-075 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the Nation and the U.S. District wish to enter the agreement to govern the terms and conditions surrounding the appointment of a tribal special assistant U.S. attorney that will be dedicated to the prosecution of crimes in Indian Country.

Furthermore, that the MCN Office of the Attorney General has recommended that Tribal **Prosecutor Shelly Harrison serve** as SAUSA to enable the prosecutor to prosecute crimes against MCN in either tribal or U.S. District Court in accordance with the agreement.

Finally, that the agreement will benefit the Nation by providing additional federal assistance for the prosecution of offenses affection MCN.

• TR 15-076 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement on behalf of the MCN Department of Health with Midwest Hospitalists PLCC. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCNDH wishes to enter into an agreement with the service and that the MCN Constitution allows the Council to approve such an agreement.

According to www.allinahealth.org, Midwest Internal Medicine Hospitalists works in partnership with the patient's primary physician to provide them with an added level of continuous care.

• TR 15-078 Authorizing the principal chief to execute licensing agreements on behalf of the MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Department and the Arkansas Archeological Survey, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Texas Historical Commission and the Kansas Historical Society. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the department desires to register for access to various historical and archaeological departments with certain states in order to gain access to research data.

It also states that it is in the best interest of MCN to monitor activities within these subject sates for potential impact on Muscogee (Creek) cultural, historical and archeological sites.

• TR 15-079 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for federal funding through the Tiger Discretionary Grant to fund a regional bridge reconstruction project. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that TTP has identified the need for reconstructing deficient and hazardous bridges throughout the Nation's jurisdiction and that the program has coordinated with county commissioners who have submitted projects from their area to have this service provided.

It also states that TTP would prepare the plans, specifications, estimates and environmental assessments as well as manages the construction of each project.

An explanation of the TIGER grant can be viewed here: www. dot.gov/tiger/about.

• TR 15-080 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the MCN and 10 separate Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of bridges and associated rights-of-ways reconstructed or improved by the MCN TTP. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCN TTP has the funds available to reconstruct or improve various public bridges in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties.

It also states that the counties agree to maintain the bridges if the Nation provides said services.

• TR 15-081 Confirming the renomination of Hughes to serve on the Muscogee International LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Hughes' term expired and that the Council approves his renomination by the principal chief. The new term is set to expire May 31, 2018.

More information about the organization can be viewed here: http://muscogeeinternational. com/about-us/.

• TR 15-082 Confirming the re-nomination of John Freeman to serve on the Muscogee International LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Freeman's term expired and that the Council approves his re-nomination by the principal chief. The new term is set to expire May 31, 2018.

• TR 15-083 Confirming the nomination of Byrd to serve on the Muscogee International LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the principal chief nominated Byrd to fill a vacancy on the board

and that the nomination requires confirmation by the Council. The term will expire May 31, 2018.

• TR 15-085 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a clinical rotation agreement between the MCN and Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCNDH seeks approval to enter into the agreement in order to provide better services to patients.

• TR 15-086 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a fire protection and automatic response agreement with the City of Tulsa. Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that GOAB needs Council approval to renew a one-year contract with the city for these services to be available for River Sprit Casino.

• TR 15-087 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease purchase agreement with Univest Capital Inc. on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The resolution states that MCNDH requires certain medical equipment to sustain their routine operations and that this company provides said equipment though a lease-purchase agreement.

More details about these agreements can be viewed here: www. univestcapitalinc.com/who-wefinance/our-lease-programs/.

• TR 15-088 Authorizing improvements to real property for the operation and administration of MCNDH. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that said improvements are needed for several properties purchased by MCNDH before they are fit for use as administrative offices. It also states that these improvements will be made with oversight from the MCN Tribal Construction Department and paid for by available MCNDH funds.

• TR 15-089 Authorizing the construction of a community center for the Okemah Indian Community. Jack, Ade and Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the community needs approval to construct a new center, which is necessary in order for members to conduct meetings and receives services and that \$855,250 was appropriated through NCA 13-172 in July 2013 for the construction of said center.

• TR 15-090 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a strategic technical assistance response team program non-disclosure agreement between the Nation and the Alliance for Sustainable Energy LLC for renewable energy project development assistance. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the MCN Reintegration Program needs approval to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.

It also states that RiP plans to make the construction of their new facility a green project by utilizing various energy efficient alternatives such as geothermal heating and cooling, Structural Insulated Panels, LED lighting

and energy efficient windows. Finally, it states that the U.S. DOE offers the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team Program in an effort to assist in the development of tribal renewable energy projects and that RiP needs approval to enter into an agreement with the Alliance for Sustainable Energy LLC as part of the application process for

said program. • NCA 15-085 Authorizing a Council - 9

\$30,000 special appropriation to the Checotah Indian Community. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed

The legislation states that the money is to fund their fiscal year 2015 budget, which has been provided with specific line items and resolution. It also states that pursuant to MCN law, the community will be accountable for expenditures by providing receipts for all expenditures to the MCN Office of the Controller.

• NCA 15-086 Authorizing the expenditure of \$9,975.90 from the Native Languages of the Americas for the preservation of Muscogee (Creek) traditions through the Mvskoke Language Revitalization 'Save our Language' project. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program has applied for the amount listed from Native Languages and that approval is needed to expend whatever amount is awarded.

• NCA 15-087 Authorizing the expenditure of \$49,100 in charitable contribution funds from Express Services Inc. for the MCN Head Start Program. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the program has applied to Express Services Inc. Philanthropic Committee for a charitable contribution for the amount listed in order to purchase 12 smart boards, 12 basic laptops to be used at six Head Start cen-

It also states that approval is needed to expend said funds if the grant is awarded and that the status of said grant is expected to be announced in June.

 NCA 15-088 Authorizing the expenditure of \$2,139 from the Endangered Language Fund for the preservation of Muscogee (Creek) traditions through the Mvskoke Language Revitalization 'Save Our Language' project. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program has applied for the fund and requires approval to expend the funds if they are awarded to go towards the 'Save Our Language' project by hiring interviewers and purchasing equipment needed to record and document the language.

• NCA 15-089 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the United Tribes for Christ Fellowship. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that UTCF is requesting financial assistance from MCN for their annual camp meeting.

• NCA 15-090 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Beaver and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0-1 with Rep. Johnnie Greene abstaining.

The amendment states that 14-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Perry Bartels requests financial assistance for a trip to Gulf Shores, Ala., to play in a baseball tournament with his

• NCA 15-091 Amending MCNCA, Title 35, Section 9-103 titled, 'Special Appropriation Guidelines' and 12-103, titled, 'Donation Guidelines.' Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation amends the existing law by adding that MCN Communities, which have economic developments, are required to provide their

Citizen signs with Carl Albert State College



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cynda Factor signs a letter of intent April 20 at Sasakwa High School in Sasakwa, Okla., to play basketball for Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Okla.

Factor wraps up high school career with All-State game

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

SASAKWA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cynda Factor has played basketball for as long as she can remember.

She said growing up, they had to play a sport at their school. "It didn't matter what sport," Factor said. "We just had to play in something."

Factor already played basketball and other sports at a young age so she was not forced into playing something that she did not like.

"I already knew how to basketball," Factor said. "I always loved basketball and getting to play with my friends was a lot of fun." Her love for the sport has led Factor to a lot of success.

She had a standout high school career playing for the Lady Vikings at Sasakwa High School.

Factor has used that momentum to help pave the way to becoming one of the few selected for the Oklahoma All-Sate game that will be played 1 p.m., May 30 at Westmoore High School in Oklahoma City.

"Being selected to play in the All-State game is the icing on the cake for my high school career," Factor said.

Basketball is not going to stop for Factor as she signed a letter of intent April 20 to play at Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Okla., where she will continue to be a Viking being that is CASC's mascot also.

"It was very nerve-wracking

but I felt a lot of weight was lifted off of my shoulders when I selected Carl Albert," Factor said.

Factor said there were other schools that were looking at her, but she felt that CASC is the best opportunity.

"There were bigger schools that were looking at me," Factor said. "They just did not want to give me the chance because I am from a smaller school." Factor visited CASC for softball but at the time of that recruiting visit, she did not get to look at the campus.

She said that when she went to visit for basketball, she liked the small town feel of the campus as well as Poteau.

"It is a lot smaller than I expected it to be, but I feel more at home with a smaller environment," Factor said.

Factor's coach Rikki Wolfe, feels that CASC is getting a great player and that she will be a great fit for her new school.

"I am very happy for Cynda," Wolfe said. "It could not have happened to a better kid and she is very deserving to continue to

play basketball at the next level."

Wolfe feels that Factor's style of play will be a great addition to the CASC women's basketball team.

"It is going to be a huge transition for her," Wolfe said. "I believe she will make the adjustments to succeed on the next level. She preferred a fast tempo style of playing so that will be a big help. Everything else will fall into place. Factor to wants ma-

physical therapy. jor in "I have always been around sports," Factor said. "I want to continue to be around sports for a long as I can so I feel that

therapy will be best for me." Factor is going to miss high school basketball but she is ready to continue her playing and education at CASC.

having my major in physical

"I am going to miss my friends, being on the team with them and my family has always been there to watch me play," Factor said.

Factor's parents are Sha-Yargee and George Factor and she is a member of the Eco (Deer) Clan.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

most recent financial information upon requesting a special appropriation and that waiver of this title may only be made by a two-thirds vote from the full Council.

• NCA 15-092 Authorizing a \$28,744 special appropriation to the Glenpool Creek Indian Community for repairs and renovations. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

The legislation states that GCIC received a \$142,497 appropriation through NCA 13-260 for their 2014 operating budget and seek approval to utilize the remaining funds from this to bring the kitchen in their community center up to code and install industrial kitchen equipment that they have already purchased.

Furthermore, it states that the bathrooms also need to be updated to fix plumbing issues and repair flooding that has already occurred.

• NCA 15-093 Amending NCA 13-260 (authorizing a special appropriation to GCIC for FY 2014 operating budget). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one

The legislation states that GCIC has \$91,813 left from the FY 2014 budget appropriation and requests the use of this money for renovations to their center rather than returning it to the tribal treasury as stated in the original appropriation.

• NCA 15-094 Authorizing a \$1,500 special appropriation to six Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack and Yahola sponsored the legislation, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) citizens Kaelyn Roberts, Saidey Smith, Raydawn Osborn, Nakai Harjo, Inessa Pugh and Madison Factor play basketball on the 14-yearold and under Jeri's Dream Team, which was named in honor of Jeri Culley who died of cancer two years ago.

It also states that the team won the Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ Tournament in March and earned entry to the Inaugural All-Native AAU Tournament scheduled to be held on the Sioux Agency Village Reservation in Sisseton, South Dakota June 12-14.

Furthermore, it states that the total cost for the team to participate is approximately \$5,350 and that the team has raised funds for the endeavor.

Finally, it states that the Muscogee (Creek) girls request \$350 each to participate in the tournament, that the coaches are confident that they will raise the remaining funds.

• NCA 15-095 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that 16-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kobe Smith seeks financial assistance for travel to Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, Missouri and Las Vegas to participate in tournaments with the OKC Premier AAU basketball team.

It also states that the total cost for participation is \$2,500 and that his family will raise the remaining amount.

• NCA 15-096 Authorizing a \$2,000 donation to Ryal Public School. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Ryal has an enrollment that consists of 53 out of 63 students being Muscogee (Creek) and that the school requested the amount listed to purchase computers.

• NCA 15-097 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that eight-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Drake DeVore's mother Gina DeVore requested financial assistance to help cover the expenses for his baseball season, which total \$1,250.

• NCA 15-098 Authorizing a \$2,090.28 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) citizen Layna Tarpalechee requests the amount listed to help fund her participation in the Loop Abroad program to travel to Thailand where she will get hands-on experience for her prospective career in exotic animal medicine with shelter dogs and cats, as well as elephants.

• NCA 15-099 Approving the budget of MCN DME LLC for the remainder of FY 2015 and providing for appropriations. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the LLC needs \$225,268 in additional money other than that generated from existing business operations to fund their proposed budget, which is also attached for

approval.

• NCA 15-101 Authorizing a \$10,000 donation to the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts for the South Central Regional Meeting for the National Association of Conservation Districts. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the OACD's mission is, 'to provide leadership, resources and partnership opportunities for conservation districts and those who manage the land to enhance our natural resources for a better Oklahoma.'

It also states that each year, one of the member state organizations hosts a two-day conference and that OACD requested the amount listed to help cover the expenses for this year's at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in

Furthermore, it states that the MCN Natural Resource Conservation Commission supports the appropriation.

• NCA 15-102 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Oil and Gas Department FY 2015 budget. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Oil and Gas wishes to make this modification in order to reallocate certain excess funds for other expenses.

• NCA 15-105 Authorizing a \$420 special appropriation to four Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Suzanne Hicks, mother of Muscogee (Creek) citizens Alyssa, Alayna, Kameron and Kon Berryhill requested financial assistance to help send them to Camp Fire Ablaze 2015 church camp in Queen City, Texas this summer.

• NCA 15-106 Amending NCA 14-158 (Approving the comprehensive annual budget for FY 2015 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 15-058. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

• NCA 15-107 Amending NCA 13-237 (Approving the CAB for FY 2014 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 13-286. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

 NCA 15-108 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the Okmulgee County Family YMCA 'Give Grow Inspire' annual campaign. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Coachman and Jack voting against it.

According to the Okmulgee YMCA site: their goal is to raise \$55,000 to support their Financial Assistance Program and for program development. For more information contact: 918-756-6677.

The legislation states that this campaign costs the organization 15 percent of their annual budget and that they've asked the Nation for assistance with said costs.

• NCA 15-109 Authorizing a \$320,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Housing and addition to the force account to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the Nation's chartered community buildings. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCN is responsible for maintenance and repairs of the Nation's buildings and facilities being used by the chartered communities.

It also states that Housing and the MCN Department of Community Research and Development are willing to work together to establish procedures for completing work orders submitted by the communities and that Housing needs the amount listed to complete this.

• NCA 15-110 Authorizing a \$318,790 supplemental appropriation MCN CRD to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the Nation's chartered community buildings.

The legislation makes the same statement as the previous in regards to community building repairs and explains that basic work can be address by CRD while larger tasks would be addressed by Housing.

It also states that CRD needs additional money to facilitate all additional work orders as well as create a new position and provide equipment to assess and complete them.

• NCA 15-111 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to sponsor the second annual Tulsa Charity Flight Night. Barnett and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCN sponsored the inaugural event last year, which raised \$361,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education in schools.

• NCA 15-112 Authorizing a \$2,600 donation to the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Indian Baptist Association. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the organization is a nonprofit that funds its operations through contributions from Muscogee Indian Baptist churches throughout the MCN jurisdiction.

It also states that the association's annual meeting is in June and that they need an ice machine, which costs the amount listed.

• NCA 15-114 Authorizing a \$2,250 special appropriation to nine Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) Kelly Lowe, a Sunday school teacher at Dustin First Baptist church, wishes to take Muscogee (Creek) citizens Micah Lowe, Kalil Lewis, Heather Pigeon, Jeremiah Boyles, TyJuan Boyles, Willard Cully, Starlah Cully and Kenzlie Thomas to Falls Creek church camp.

It also states that the total cost is \$3,200, that each citizen is eligible for \$250.

• NCA 15-115 Authorizing a \$1,014.98 to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sallye Countz has an opportunity to return to Anchorage, Ala., for an internship to train in the area of environmental health.

It also states that the internship is paid, which will take care of most of the estimated \$3,156.78 expenses and that she requests the amount in the bill to help with the rest.

The June Council regular session is scheduled June 20.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or ap-

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc. com, and the 2010 MCNCA available on the MCN District Court website at: www.muscogeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

'One Last Breath'



Submission Wendy Fixico and her grandmother, Louis Ellen Snyder.

A poem by: Wendy Fixico Oklahoma Baptist University nursing student

In memory of my beautiful grandmother, Lois Ellen Snyder (June 23, 1926 - June 22, 2005)

In the kitchen
A great gathering place
Table for three
KVOO on the radio
A lifetime of hard work seen
on both faces

Country view to the south and to the east The crisp morning air Covered by a smoke filled room At breakfast

At breakfast And again at noon Water boiling on the stove

It's going to be one hot summer day Grandpa is on his way out the door The smoke filled room clears After sometime

Grandma breaks out the dough

Homemade is always best Never again once she is laid to rest

Complaints of heaviness on her chest

Oxygen does not help much anymore

The hospice nurse is miles

away
Breathing is beginning

to seem impossible Family is near Her only comfort

She will need her faith And spiritual guidance As she travels to that special place

All those years as a supporting wife Not a single cigarette smoked Though the leading cause of taking her life

And her last breath

DAVID MORGAN

TULSA, Okla. — David Eugene Morgan, a resident of Henryetta passed away May 19, 2015 in Tulsa at the age of 58. He was born June 1, 1956 in Joliet, Ill., to Elmo Morgan Sr. and Rosetta Katie (Haynes) Morgan.

He worked for many years as a cook at Beacon Drive-In in Okmulgee and later for Coleman's Drive In, in Okmulgee.

He was a member of Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church in the Prairie Bell area.

He is preceded in death by his: father, Elmo Morgan Sr. and a brother, Glen Morgan.

He is survived by his: mother, Rosetta Haynes Morgan of Henryetta; brothers, Elmo Morgan Jr. and wife, Rebecca of Sapulpa, James Morgan and wife, Yvonne of Okmulgee and Bud Morgan of Oklahoma City; sisters, Ruthie Morgan Grimes of Tulsa, Trisha Major and husband, David of Mesquite, Texas, Diane Morgan and husband, Elliott Walker of Henryetta, Betty Williams and husband, Phillip of Arlington, Texas and Mary Morgan of Tulsa as well as a host of nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives.

Funeral Services are set for May 23 at Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church. Interment will be in Big Cussetah Church Cemetery under direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

JOHN PUMPHREY



OKMULGEE, Okla. — John Alan Pumphrey (Johnny) Born May 27, 1966 departed this world March 19, 2015 to begin a new life in his heavenly home.

He was of the Deer Clan and was very proud of his Indian heritage.

As a young boy, he spent many summers with his Grandma Pumphrey.

He loved getting up early to a big country breakfast and afterwards going to work in her garden. The highlight of their time together was in the kitchen cooking, canning, making jelly and rolling out pie dough to the tune of 'Go Tell Aunt Gertie The Old Gray Goose is Dead.' She loved teaching him to cook and to roll out pie dough. This created a great desire for him to become a Chef. It also taught him a great respect and love for older people.

After Johnny graduated from Moore High School, he attended the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. When he returned home he worked as a chef at Legend's Restaurant in Norman for many years. Later he decided to travel and had many adventures as a Chef.

He worked as a chef on the luxury train The American Orient Express. He loved his job. He traveled all over the United States and saw a lot of beautiful country. He met people from all over the world. He loved visiting with them. He would laugh and say they were mostly 'blue hairs' BUT that was the age group that Johnny dearly loved. He found older people had so many interesting life experiences and stories to talk about, something the younger generations will never know or experience.

Johnny worked various jobs as a chef and sons chef. He worked in Mackinac Island, Mich., Oregon, California and Hawaii. One of his biggest adventures was when he took a government job in Antarctica cooking for the military and scientists.

Johnny dearly loved his family and friends. He never forgot a face. He loved talking old times, University of Oklahoma football and telling stories from his traveling/work experiences. He had a big heart and would go out of his way to help others (mostly the elderly). He talked almost

daily with his aunts, Claudine,

Deane, Linda, Norma, Uncle Alex, Don James and cousins, David Warner and Sharla Chappel. (Sharla won him to the Lord over the phone.)

Johnny's jovial personality, his big smile and his generosity for helping others will always be remembered. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Johnny is survived by his: parents John and Carolyn; sister, Janet and Tommy Hand as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services were set for May 24 at the Wilmont Place Baptist Church in Oklahoma City with Rev. Danny Frazee and Tyler McDowell officiating. Johnny was laid to rest beside his grandparents in the Oakwood Cemetery in Wewoka.

APOLOGY

I want to say I'm sorry to Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise and Creek Nation Travel Plaza for stealing cigarette's from the storeroom while I worked there. I know it was wrong and I shouldn't have done it. I deserve the punishment that I got in court and I hope to learn from this incident. I hope that you will forgive me.

— Donald R. Lang Jr.

GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR JUNE 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Okmulgee First Indian Baptist Church has set a gospel singing for 2 p.m., June 6 at 1700 W. Eufaula in Okmulgee.

Concessions will be available and please bring lawn chairs.

For more information contact Freddie Lowe: 918-843-2265.

150 YEAR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 13

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — Okfuskee Baptist Church has set a June 13 celebration for their 150th anniversary.

Set up is at 9 a.m. and the program starts at 10 a.m. If you are able, please bring a covered dish to share for lunch.

For more information call Pastor Carr at: 918-926-0651.

CHURCH CENTENNIAL SET FOR JUNE 13

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — Hutche Chuppa Indian Baptist Church has set a centennial church celebration for June 13 starting at 11 a.m.

Dinner will be served after the event.



FAMILY REUNION SET FOR JUNE 20

WETUMKA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Nehar and Sallie Yahola has been set for June 20 at Salt Creek United Methodist Church starting at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome and please bring a potluck dish for lunch

BENEFIT POWWOW SET FOR JUNE 20

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The fourth annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powow is set for June 20 at the Bacone College student life center, 2414 E. Shawneee Bypass in Muskogee.

Activities will include: gourd dances, 50/50, raffles, a cake walk and silent auctions.

All drums, royalties and dancers are invited.

For event information call: 918-682-2586. For vendor information call: 918-616-4577.

CMCA GATHERING SET FOR AUG. 1

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an annual gathering for Aug. 1 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia, Ave, Riverside CA, 92503.

For more information contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554 or jeannars@yahoo.com.

CNEU

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program puzzle

Cuko Hvmecvlke — Family members

ERKE - Father

ECKE - Mother

ECUSTE - Daughter

EPPUCE - Son

EPUCA - Grandfather

EPUSE - Grandmother

ECUSE - Sister

ECERWV - **Brother**

EPAUWV - Uncle (Maternal)

ERKUCE - Uncle (Paternal)

ECKUCE - Aunt (of a female)

EPUSE - Aunt (of a male)

ENAHVMKVLKE - Cousin/kinfolk

CUKO HVMECVLKE - Family

ENCUKOTEKV CEPANE - Boy

HOKTUCE - Girl

HOKTE - Woman

HUNVNWV - Man

ESTE - Person

UCAOKETOKU

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The Muscogee Nation News congratulates 2015 MCN graduates

Jacob Daniel Ahtone

School: Tulsa Community College

Parents: Jo Ahtone and Francis Lewis and the late

Howard Ahtone

Degree: Associate degree in pre-medical imaging,

radiography Clan: Wotko

Church: Saint Bernard, Tulsa Ceremonial Ground: Muddy Waters

He was accepted to the University of Oklahoma radiography program, which begins June 1. It is a highly competitive program that accepts only eight students each year. Future plans are to work at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation hospital or clinics.

Larie Renee Amos

School: Westmoore High School in Oklahoma City

Parents: Billy and Tina Amos

Clan: Bear

Church: Victory Baptist Church

Tribal Town: Kialegee

Ceremonial Ground: Helvpe Kanite (Hillabee

Canadian)

Larie has maintained a 3.85 GPA throughout high school, and a member of the National Honor

Society and Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society. Larie is a student leader in the Awana Club at Victory Baptist Church. Larie has been active in competitive athletics for Westmoore High School, receiving four varsity letters in fast-pitch and three in slow-pitch softball. She has received numerous awards for All-District, All-Conference and All-State as a pitcher. In the fall, she will attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford on a softball and academic scholarship.

Hunter R. Arnold

School: Okmulgee High School Parents: Brian and Lisa Arnold

While in high school Hunter was a member of 'The Showpiece' of Okmulgee and 'Pride of The Muscogee Nation' Marching Bands. Other activities include: student council, leadership, student of the month, and Johnson O'Malley.

His family includes: sister, Emilee; paternal grandparents, Delphia and the late Leroy Arnold

and maternal grandparents, Etta and the late Everett Checotah. He will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall to pursue a degree in computer engineering.

Christyn Barnett

School: Okmulgee High School

Parents: Diana Beasley and Acee Barnett

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Nuyaka

Church: Big Cussetah Methodist Church

Slow-pitch softball defensive player of the year in

2014, superintendent honor roll.

Tyler Billiot

School: Coweta High School Parents: Kenneth and Shelly Billiot

Clan: Wind

Church: Springtown UMC

Four-year member of the Coweta Tiger Pride Band, with four State Championships. The 4A-5A OBA Grand Champions for 2014-2015 and 2011-2012. They also competed for the first time at the Bands

of America Competition in St. Louis, Mo., in 2013. Tyler has received numerous art awards at local and state competitions. He currently attends Indian Capital Technology Center in Muskogee. Tyler will complete the graphic communications program in the Spring of 2016. His grandparents are Louvina Frank and the late Newman Frank Sr. and

the late Harold and Eunice Billiot.





MacKenzie Lane Cusher-Burton

School: Okmulgee High School

Parents: Cindy and Scott Smith and Brett Burton

Clan: Wind Tribal Town: Nuyaka

Church: Newtown United Methodist

MacKenzie participated in sports all through

middle and high school, which included football, baseball and wresting. He was a member of the band for five years and was on the honor roll, letter

'O' recipient, homecoming escort in 2015, two-year concurrent Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Okmulgee student.

His plans are to attend OSUIT for an associates degree then transfer to a four-year college for a bachelor's degree to become a coach. His grandparents are Linda Cusher, Corneal Cusher and Rita and Larry Burton.



School: Bristow High School

Parents: Valencia Bigpond and Paul Colbert

Clan: Wind

Church: Rogers Chapel Baptist Church



Maranda Rachelle Coon

School: Mason High School in Mason Parents: Timothy and Brenda Coon

Clan: Beaver

Tribal Town: New Tulsa

Church: Buckeye Creek Baptist Church, I.X.L.,

Senior class president and Wes Watkins Technology Center Multimedia Specialist Certificate



Samantha Rae Davis

School: Southern Union State Community College

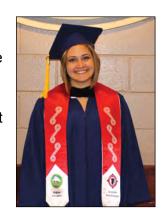
Parents: Jackie Owens and Josh Owens

Degree: Associates of Science

Awards/Accomplishments: Graduated with highest

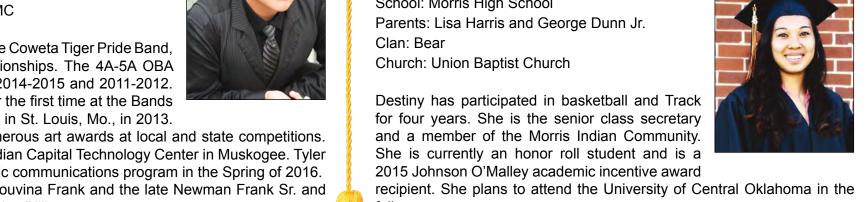
honors

Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce



Destiny Dawn Dunn

School: Morris High School







Dayton Ellen

School: Checotah High School Parents: Shannon and Brian Proctor Church: First Freewill Baptist in Checotah

Clan: Bear

Ceremonial Ground: Weogufkee

He has attended Checotah schools since kindergarten. He participated in the Johnson O'Malley Challenge Bowl for 10 years and was the recipient of the Belvin Hill Senior Scholarship.

Dayton has also received a Native American Art Scholarship, JOM Academic Incentive Scholarship, and CHS Art Scholarship. Dayton has been active in many sports including, baseball, football, wrestling and basketball. Dayton received a medal for Heartland Conference All-Star in 2014-2015. Dayton was also nominated to play in Indian All-State basketball.

Dayton graduated May 22 and will attend Northeastern State University in the fall to major in business.

Cynda Gayle Factor

School: Sasakwa High School/Ponotoc Vo Tech Parents: George Factor and Sharon Yargee

Degree: Diploma/Cosmetology

Ceremonial Ground: Sand Creek (Euchee ground)

Clan: Eco

Honor roll, student council, Class A state champion in 400 meter track, Class B all-state basketball, Indian all-state, Vype second team, 135 rebounds with a 5.2 average — 92 assists with a 3.5 average

—171 steals with a 6.6 average — 61 percent field goals — 600 points total this season with 23.1 points per game average — 1557 total career points — Little River Conference MVP, leading scorer in Class B.

Fifth in final State Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women Awards, Nancy Tsoodle Outstanding American Indian Female student, LR all-conference for three years in basketball, LR all-conference in softball, Class A state track 100 meters placing sixth, most points scored at area tournament with 36. She plans to attend Carl Albert College in Poteau.

Kaitlyn Danielle Factor

School: Weleetka High School Parents: Daniel and Ellie Factor

Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Weogufkee Church: Nuyaka Indian Baptist



Michael A. Factor Jr.

School: Tahlequah High School

Parents: Michael Factor and Clarissa Wallace

Ceremonial Ground: Kellyville

He is the grandson of Ester Factor and the late Mickey Factor.



Michael Yahv Fish

School: College of the Muscogee Nation Parents: Jimsey Fish and Lynnelle Roberts Degree: Associate in Science-tribal services

Clan: Bear Tribal Town: Tvlwv Rakko

Church: Glorieta Baptist Church

He is an American Indian College Fund recipient. He played basketball for the Ravens and participated in many intramural games/leagues. He plans on

continuing his education by obtaining an electrical construction degree from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

His grandparents are Mitchell and Lydia 'Jimmie' Fish and Terry 'Skip' Roberts and Mona 'Koko' Lowe.

Myriah Givens

School: Saugus High School in Saugus, Calif. Parents: Martin and Diane Givens of Santa Clarita,

Calif. Clan: Wind

Church: Myriah's grandparents are members of the Salt Creek Baptist Church in Wetumka

She is the granddaughter of William Givens of Glendale, Calif., and Imogene Letka of Squim,

Wash. Myriah's desire is to further her education in the medical field.



Cheyenne Chenoa Hale

School: Norman North High School Parents: Brent and Monica Hale Degree: General Studies

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Tuckabatchee Church: Norman First Methodist

She received the 'Best Defensive Player' award for volleyball. She sustained a 3.7 GPA and took concurrent college classes at the University of

Oklahoma and made As in four out of four classes. She graduated in the

top 25 percent of her class.



Sandra Elaine Harjo

School: Rogers State University

Parents: Tim Harjo and the late Christine Harjo Degree: Associates of Applied Science in nursing

(RN) Clan: Raccoon

Tribal Town: Kialegee Church: Weogufkee

Ceremonial Ground: Peach



Sandra is the granddaughter of Addie Simpson and the great-granddaughter of Minnie (Davis) and George Simpson of Hanna. She plans to attend RSU in Spring 2016 to continue her nursing education.

Tyler Ashton Harp

School: Glenpool High School

Parents: William Harp of Jenks and the late

Shannon Jones-Harp

In addition to high school courses, Tyler also attended Tulsa Tech holding a 3.9 GPA in health science/sports medicine and was concurrently enrolled in related classes at Tulsa Community College where she was recognized on the president's honor roll with a 4.0 GPA.



With great honor, the family of Tyler Ashton Harp announces her May 18 graduation. Her grandparents are Diane and the late Bill Jones of Glenpool, Ray and Sandy Harp of Sand Springs and her great-grandparents are the late Elmer and Mahaley Jones of Okmulgee.

Tyler plans to continue classes in health science at Tulsa Community College, before transferring to the University of Oklahoma in Norman to achieve her goal of becoming a state licensed physical therapist. Reach for the moon Tyler; swing on a star. Believe in the fabulous person you are!

Alyssa Janeen Harper

School: University of Central Oklahoma

Parents: Loy and Diane Thomas of Okmulgee Degree: Bachelor of Science in forensic science, Bachelor of Arts in psychology with a minor in

sociology Clan: Raccoon Tribal Town: Wewoka



Alyssa Harper completed dual bachelor's degree while balancing the responsibilities of a mother, wife

and student. Other honors in past semesters include: MBCI Scholarship, Main Street Youth Program, dean's honor roll, a member of the Student Academy of Forensic Science, Psi Chi and a American Psychological Association Student Affiliate member.

Alyssa is married to Lee Harper, mother to Alex and her grandparents were the late Albert and Bernice Thomas of Okmulgee and Lisette John of Carthage, Miss.



Gabriel Tompson Hicks

School: Jenks High School

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Okfuskee

Church: Buckeye Creek Baptist where he was

baptized by Rev. Wayne Harjo

He is a member of the National Technical Honor

Society.



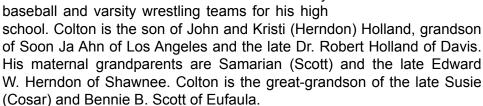
Daniel Colton Holland

School: Lone Star High School in Frisco, Texas Parents: John and Kristi (Herndon) Holland

Clan: Raccoon

Tribal Town: Eufaula Canadian

He is a member of the National Honor Society. Colton has competed and placed in Academic Decathlon and Computer Science competition. He has a 4.5 GPA. Colton was on both the varsity baseball and varsity wrestling teams for his high



He will be attending Oklahoma State University in the fall to major in computer science.

Steven Christopher Hollier

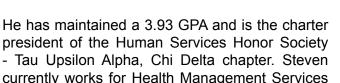
School: University of Phoenix, South Field, Mich.

Parents: Warren and Joan Hollier

Degree: Bachelor of Science in human services

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Clan: Wind



of America with their gambling hotline where he counsels individuals over the phone and Internet with gambling related problems. He also does follow-up and works with processing of billing and claims.

He has received honors for going beyond the call of his job requirements and has received commendation for his willingness to exceed the agency's expectations. His client feedback attests to his ability to work well with his clients to help them receive excellent professional assistance. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. at Michigan State University.

His sister is Nicole and grandmother is Marcelle C. Adams Douglas.

Elijah James Hooper

School: Sapulpa High Bartlett Academy

Parents: Sonya and Donald Squire and Walter Hooper

Clan: Wind

Church: Covenant Harvest Ministries in Sapulpa where he is a member of the praise and worship teams and plays drums, guitar and bass.

Ceremonial Ground: Sand Creek

Student of the month, Excellence in Academics awards: Oklahoma history, world history and science. He plans to attend Sapulpa Central Vo-Tech to study in the medical field.

His grandparents are: the late Jessie and Rosella Hooper of Tahlequah; Betty and Alan Pulver of Sapulpa and his late grandfather, Daniel Foster of Kellyville.

Pfc. Tanner Hughes

School: Graduated from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego, Calif., in August and is a 2014 graduate of Pryor High School

Parents: Shawn and Mary Hughes of Pryor

Clan: Raccoon

He is the brother Haley Hughes of Pryor, grandson of Buddy and Linda Hughes of Chouteau, Margaret Edwards of Pryor and Larry and Cindy Blackwell of McAllen, Texas. He is the great-grandson of Estelle Hughes and the late George Hughes of Eufaula.



Ryan Wesley Johnson

School: Eastern Michigan University
Parents: Gina Douglas and Raymond Johnson

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Ryan was a member of the Honors College at Eastern and graduated Cum Laude. While attending Eastern, Ryan was an active member of the University Mock Trial Team, where he won multiple awards. Ryan is an avid golfer and also

enjoys playing tennis. He plans to pursue a degree in law.

Jeremy Hunter Jones, Lum Hee Chattee

School: Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Fla.
Parents: Kenneth Conchattee and Karen Jones
Degree: Associate of Arts in art studio, graphic
design support and graphic design production and
an Associate of Science in graphic design

On the dean's list three times and created the tower logo used by the school to announce the school

being number one in the nation. He is the grandson of Clark and Joye Fixico-Jones and great-grandson of Wallace and Flora-Burgess Fixico.



School: Graduated from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp Nov. 11, 2014 in San Diego, Calif.

Parents: Taylor Long of Casa Grande, Ariz., and Dawn Noggle of Phoenix

Clan: Beaver

Tribal Town/Church/Ceremonial Ground: Big

Cussetah in Morris

Gabriel completed the school of infantry and is now stationed at U.S. Marine Corps base Camp

Pendleton in Southern California. He chose to serve and was chosen to serve. Gabriel is following a Marine Corps family tradition started by his grandfather Rev. Harry Long. Gabriel's great-aunt says of attending her family member's graduation, 'a lot of relatives have stood on those yellow foot prints and marched on those parade grounds.'

Gabriel also follows many uncles, aunts, and cousins by entering into the military. I am proud of Gabriel and also concerned and ask for support and prayers for Gabe. Please give support to Gabe if you should meet him. Mvto.

Jessica Michelle Lopez

School: Central Texas College, Fort Hood, Texas

Parents: Jemona Sulphur

Degree: Associate in business administration

Clan: Beaver

Ceremonial Ground: Greenleaf

Congratulations to Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jessica Michelle Lopez! She is the wife of SPC Genaro Lopez and mother of Daveon 'Cuntv,'

Darian, Dallen Hill and Graciela Lopez. She is the great-granddaughter of Joe Sulphur and the peacefully laid, Alice Marie Reeder (Johnson). All of her family and friends wish her the best on her next journey to Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Scott Steven McCoy

School: William R. Boone High School, Orlando,

Fla.

Parents: Steven and Pam McCoy Orlando, Fla.

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Church: Discovery Church of Orlando where he has been a student leader in his youth group and served on mission trips to the Dominican Republic

He is a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship winner, member of National Honor Society with a 4.1 GPA and has volunteered for over 100 hours of community service in the Orlando area.

His paternal grandparents are Jean Webb of Norman and the late Frank 'Coley' McCoy of Wetumka. His maternal grandparents are Lorraine Doroba of Hoffman Estates, III., and the late Frank Doroba. He will be attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla., in the fall.













Annie M. Merritt

School: Seminole State College Parents: Charles and Carol Taylor

Degree: Associate of Arts in behavioral sciences

Clan: Aktvyahcvlke

Tribal Town: Alabama-Quassarte Church: Montesoma Indian Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Alabama

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, nominated for the 2015 edition of 'Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges



Pvt. Brandon Lee Mitchell

School: Gradated May 8 from U.S. Marine Corps basic training at Camp Pendleton, San Diego, Calif.

Parents: Christopher A. Mitchell of Ponca City and Jenifer Burson Mitchell of Peggs

Clan: Bear

Church: Hillabee Baptist in Hanna

Ceremonial Ground: Alabama

Brandon will be stationed in Florida. His paternal grandparents are Minnie and Wayne Wauqua, of Holdenville and the late Frank Mitchell, and great-grandparents are the late Samuel Scott and Mandy Brown Scott and the late Sam Parnoske Mitchell and Eliza Gough Mitchell.



School: Frances Tuttle Technology Center,

Oklahoma City

Anaheim, Calif.

Parents: Claudette Robertson of Oklahoma City and John Moore of Northern California

Degree: Certificate in 3D Modeling

John graduated from Frances Tuttle with a 3.9 GPA and he won second place in the Individual Category at the March 2015 Oklahoma Business and Professional Academy competition in 3D

Modeling. John is currently seeking a position in the field of 3D computer modeling/animation and multimedia arts. He won national first place for 3D modeling at the Business and Professional Academy 2015 Conference in

John received financial support from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education during his years at California State University at Fresno where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts, and during the past year as a student at Frances Tuttle.

John is direct descendant of Colonel William Robison, the great-grandson of the late Joe Robison of Weleetka and grandson of the late Zelma Robison.

Patrick O'Brien

School: Okmulgee High School

Parents: Tami and Rodney Humphrey, Sean and

Barbara O'Brien Clan: Tiger Tribal Town: Koweta

Church: First Baptist Church in Okmulgee

Patrick is one of Okmulgee's salutatorians, senior class president, vice-president of the National Honor Society and received the Academic Letter 'O' Award.

He was in band for seven years and was drum major for the Okmulgee High School Band his junior year. Patrick made the Eastern Oklahoma Honor Band, Eastern District Honor Band, Okmulgee County Honor Band and received a superior rating on a Snare Drum Solo. He has also participated in cross-country, track, wrestling, tennis and leadership.

He is the grandson of Don and Jona Rade, Mike and Beverly O'Brien and great-grandson of Ginger O'Brien. Patrick plans on attending the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith, Ark., to major in psychology.

Shawn Bradley Ogle

School: University of Oklahoma

Parents: Linda Youmans Ogle and the late Rick

Ogle of McLoud

Degree: Bachelor of Science in health and exercise science with a minor in Native American studies

Clan: Beaver Clan Tribal Town: New Tulsa

Shawn was in the transfer leadership class of OU, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Who's Who

Among American Universities and Colleges and the Native American Students Association. He played goalkeeper for the OU men's soccer team. He is currently working as a recruiter for Rose State College and is the goalkeeper coach for the Rose State soccer teams. His grandparents are Rechinta Youmans and the late Gene Youmans of Holdenville and the late Leon Ogle and Yolanda Vargas Hook of Choctaw.

Maggie Lynn Pembrook

School: Broken Arrow High School, Broken Arrow

Parents: Tammy and Albert Pembrook Tribal Town: Koweta

Clan: Wind

A 12-year student of Broken Arrow Public Schools, four year student athletic trainer (captain) of Broken Arrow Varsity Football, wrestling, cheer, track and baseball, two-time athletic trainer 'Veteran VIP' award recipient in 2013 and 2015, sports medicine

attendant Homecoming Court from 2014-2015, National Honor Society top 12 percent, COLABASH Council, Athletic Leadership Conference, Native American Student Association, Johnson O'Malley Program, peer tutoring, FCCLA Club, FCA, accepted into The University of Oklahoma for the fall 2015 semester. Her brother is Trent Pembrook, sister is Hally Pembrook and her grandparents are Fern and Arthur Kerr, Elresa Pembrook and the late Orvin Pembrook of Broken Arrow.



School: Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill,

Calif.

Parents: Rene Perryman

Degree: Associate of Arts in sociology

Tribal Town: Locherpokar



Isabella Esther Choi Perryman

School: Emerald Ridge High School in Puyallup,

Wash.

Parents: Dario Tonihka Perryman and Julia

Perryman

Tribal Town: Locherpokar

Honors Award for Arts and Communication in Video Production for all four years of high school.



Keisha D. Postoak

School: Eufaula High School

Parents: Great-granddaughter of Sue Bumgarner

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Tuskeege

Church: New Arbor Indian Baptist



Marissa RiAnn Proctor

School: Checotah High School Parents: Marva Jackson and Brian Proctor

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Big Cussetah

Church: Freewill Baptist

Ceremonial Ground: Hillabee and Greenleaf

She maintains a 3.1 GPA and was selected to be a page at the Oklahoma State Capitol. She also made all-conference in basketball for McIntosh

County. She will be attending the College of Muscogee Nation for Native American studies and plans on traveling to teach Native American ways.







Kayla Tristin Pullen

School: Plainview High School in Ardmore Parents: Rhonda and Howard Allen of Ardmore and Joseph and Denise Pullen of Ardmore

Clan: Raccoon

Tribal Town: Yufalv Kenete

Kayla has an amazing ability in the visual arts and works hard to cultivate her talent. Kayla is an active member of the art club and has a long list of art honors/awards, community and leadership services.



The following are only a few of her numerous accomplishments: Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award, Young Talent of Oklahoma Recipient, National Art Honor Society, first place Art Portfolio at College Area Curriculum Competition, first place in Figure Drawing at College Area Curriculum Competition and fifth place in Drawing at State Competition.

Upon graduation, Kayla will attend Murray State College to major in art.

Pauline Raquel Randall

School: Union Public School in Tulsa

Parents: Father the late Clifton Randall; mother,

Sandra and Mark Bible

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Koweta

Church: Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church

Her paternal grandparents are Bruce and Lettie Randall, and Ethleen Harry. Her maternal grandparents are Sam and Rose Chisholm. Her

siblings are Jason Goins, Mark Bible Jr., Andy Bible, Ryan Bible and

Correna Bible.

Adobe Illustrator CS6 certificate, visual graphics and design certificate, National Technical Honor Society for two years, director's honor roll for two years, Johnson O'Malley Program participant, Community Services for Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church, Summer Youth Program Employment Program for Muscogee (Creek) Nation, accepted to College of the Muscogee Nation where she will major in tribal services/business.

Pauline enjoys camping, swimming, playing, video games and traveling.

Justin Lee Rhinehart

School: Wetumka High School Parents: Justina Givens

Clan: Wotko

Tribal Town: Kialegee

Church: Sand Creek Baptist Church

Football for four years, Class B All-District lineman in 2014, state weightlifting champs from 2013-2014, national scholar/athlete award in 2015, 11 man all star football for 2014-2015, principal honor

roll in 2015, track for one year and baseball for one year. His grandparents

are Ben and Martha Givens.

Joshua Taylor Roberts

School: College of the Muscogee Nation Parents: Sharon Yargee and Kendall Roberts

Degree: Associate

Clan: Eco Tribal Town: Alabama Quassarte

Ceremonial Ground: Sand Creek (Euchee ground)



Amanda Rutland

School: Oklahoma State University Institute of

Technology

Parents: David (deceased) and Joyce Mitchell

Degree: Associate of Applied Science in

photography technology Clan: Wotko (Raccoon) Tribal Town: Weogufkee

Church: Tulmochussee Baptist Church



Taylor Renee Scott

School: Southwestern Oklahoma State University Degree: Bachelor degree in communication arts Parents: Sunny Baldridge and Reggy Scott

Tribal Town: Okfuskee

Clan: Bear

Awards: Dean's Honor Roll, Great American

Conference Academic Award

Accomplishments: Member of the SWOSU Cross

Country team

Thank you to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for supporting me during my college career and for helping me pursue my goals. For the future, I plan to discover a job I enjoy.

Briana Jo-Jean Smith

School: Mason High School
Parents: Jason and Lorena Smith

Clan: Alligator
Tribal Town: Fish Pond

Church: Prairie Springs Indian Baptist

Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Certified nurse assistant, home health assistant from WWTC and she plans to attend Seminole State College to become a registered nurse.



Jade Stallings

School: Okmulgee High School/Green Country

Vo-Tech

Parents: Justina Grayson and Justin Stallings

Degree: Diploma/CNA License

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Nuyaka Church: Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris

Jade has been on the principal honor roll all four years of high school. She is also on the National

Honor Society and is student council secretary. She enjoys playing softball and has been on varsity sports for four years along with receiving the 2013 Fast Pitch Defensive Player of the Year with Okmulgee High School.

Jade was born in Okmulgee and is an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Her maternal grandparents are Cheryl Grayson and the late Tommy Grayson and paternal grandparents are Joyce Stallings and the late Adam Stallings. She attended Twin Hills School from kindergarten through eighth grade and Okmulgee High School beginning with her freshman year. After high school she plans to attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where she will pursue her nursing degree.

Alicia Marie Sternback

School: Centralia Community College, Washington

State

Parents: Gary and Tina Sternback

Degree: Associate in Arts

Church: Rochester Life Assembly of God where she is involved with outreach to a local nursing home and leads worship for the youth group.

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Okfuskee



Alicia is on the president's list at the college for having a 3.9-4.0 GPA. She was also selected to receive an Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Tribal Funds Grant.

Emily R. Sternback

School: South Puget Sound Community College in

Washington State

Parents: Gary and Tina Sternback

Degree: Associate of Arts Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Okfuskee





Evan Colin Tansey

School: Oklahoma Baptist University Parents: Mark and Lula Tansey

Degree: Theatre and Communications Studies

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Weogufkee

Church: Weogufkee Indian Baptist

Outstanding Theater Student Award 2015, Most Valuable Theatre Student 2013/2015, Member and Officer of National Theatre Honor Society Alpha Psi Omega.

Member of National Communication Association Lambda Pi Eta, Excellence of Management at Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival Region VI 2015, Excellence of Design at Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival Region VI 2014.

Travis Dean Wallace Jr.

School: Weleetka Public Schools where he has attended since Head Start

Parents: Travis and Angie Wallace of Weleetka and Shannon Neal of Oklahoma City

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama

While attending school, Travis had been an active member of the Weleetka FFA Chapter, archery and skeet teams and received numerous awards

in all of those endeavors. He also lettered in track for four years and was in the Johnson O'Malley and Gifted and Talented Programs.

His future plans include working in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program for the summer, and attending the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee in the fall.

He plans to get his basics there and then pursue a career in physical therapy.

Joe Don Waters Jr.

School: Owasso High School

Parents: Kim Waters and the late Joe Don Waters Sr.

Clan: Fox

Tribal Town: Kvsetv

Church: Big Cussetah United Methodist Church

Ceremonial Ground: Kvsetv (inactive)

Tulsa Technology Center two-year completion certificate, Gold ServSafe certificate and honor roll. He is the grandson of Pete and Joanna Coser and great-grandson of the late George and Stella Coser Sr.



Bobbi Welch

School: College of the Muscogee Nation

Parents: Dean and Lorrie Welch

Degree: Tribal services and Mvskoke language

certificate Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama



Cheyenne Marie Williams

School: Choctaw High School Parent: John Williams Grandparent: Joy Spocogee

Clan: Deer

Tribal Town: Coushatta

Cheyenne has been accepted to the University of Oklahoma, Colorado State University and Rose

State College.



Andye Micaela Wolfe

School: Holdenville High School

Parents: Alex Michelle Wolfe of Okmulgee and

Arnold Meely of Holdenville

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Cussetah

Church: Big Cussetah United Methodist

Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka



She is the older sister of Toby and Katherine Meely of Okmulgee; granddaughter of Janice Bailey;

great-granddaughter of Dorothy Pinezaddleby, both of Okmulgee and the granddaughter of the late Edward Bailey and Alex Pete Wolfe.

She is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen but also of the Seminole, Ponca and Kiowa tribes of Oklahoma, respectively. While in high school, Andye attended Wes Watkins Technology Center and was involved in Skills USA. She participated in the service careers of maintenance, plumbing and carpentry where she placed at the district and state levels. She was the historian for Skills USA during her junior and senior years. Andye plans to attend the College of the Muscogee Nation in the fall of 2015 to major in police science.

Monica Inez Zamora

School: Western University of Health Sciences

Parents: Lewis and Esperanza Zamora Degree: Doctor of veterinary medicine

Clan: Alligator

Tribal Town: Coweta

Her grandmother is Abbie Berryhill and her greatgrandparents are Celia Freeman Berryhill and Harrison Berryhill.





MUSCOGEE NATION 1

Workforce sought for Margaritaville expansion

Job-seekers check out TERO job fair

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

TULSA, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office held the TERO Job Fair May 28 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa to help find a TERO estimated 5,000 employee workforce to complete the \$329 million Margaritaville themed expansion of RSC.

The event pulled together contractors and sub-contractors from various disciplines to talk directly with job-seekers.

MCN TERO Director John Overacker said the goal is to find tribal citizens work on a reliable

"Basically, what we're doing is, we're trying to get more of our citizens on our projects, to find them permanent positions with companies," Overacker said. "So, the best way to do that is have a job fair where they can come in, fill out a form for our database, things like that."

That database, he said, would provide a labor pool for when opportunities arise.

Beyond this, he hopes that



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office Director John Overacker listens to a hopeful job applicant at the TERO Job Fair held May 28 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla

these positions will branch out into long-term opportunities.

"Not only just at the site, place them with a company where they can move into the future and stay with that company and have a career, retirement and everything else that goes with that," Overacker said.

Manuel Noriega, (Muscogee/ Seminole/Hispanic) from Glenpool, was one of about 75 job seekers who attended the fair. He was trying to find something in the construction line, especially plumbing.

He said there was one contact that looked promising.

"TD Industries, they're going to do the plumbing at Margaritaville, so I hope to get on with them and hope that things take off from there," Noriega said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sylvia Bear from Fort Gibson was another job-seeker. Bear hoped to use her experience working with heavy equipment from the U.S. Marine Corps as the basis for possible jobs.

"I was a heavy equipment mechanic there and I'm not exactly certified civilian-wise, but I feel like I'm pretty adaptable to most hard situations," Bear said.

The job search, she said, was a matter of finding the right fit for her skills and personal situation.

"I'm a single mom, so that kind of changes some of my requirements for a job and what I'm able to give to a job," Bear said. "At this point, I'm just

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June 15, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 12 "Kycohvse" Blackberry Month



MCN candidate profiles to be taken at filing

Prospective, incumbent officials asked to be photo, bio ready

Mvskoke Media/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will take candidate profile information and photos on-site during the filing period July 20-22 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. for the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation officer elections.

MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their 100 total word limit bios, which will run in the MNN Aug. 15 edition.

Bios should include, as available, candidates': full name, district and seat they are running for, clan, tribal town, ceremonial ground and/or church, education/experience and campaign plat-

No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material.

Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.

The profile submission period has been narrowed to quickly inform Muscogee (Creek) citizens ahead of the upcoming Mvskoke Media candidate forum, to be announced and absentee ballot deadlines.

For more information contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or email: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov.

MCNDH breaks ground on new Eufaula health center

Area to receive new expanded facility

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

EUFAULA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health along with tribal administrators gathered May 28 for a groundbreaking ceremony to launch construction of the new Eufaula Indian Health Center project.

The event was moved indoors to the Eufaula Indian Community Center in Eufaula due to rain.

The existing facility was constructed in 1979, is approximately 7,000 square feet and employs 48 individuals. Most of the 4,278 registered patients live within a 40-mile radius.

MCNDH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said the current clinic only allows each provider two patient rooms, which is a hindrance for expedient care.

"The existing facility is outdat-



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health along with tribal administrators gathered May 28 for a groundbreaking ceremony on the new Eufaula Indian Health Center at the Eufaula Indian Community Center in Eufaula, Okla.

ed, does not meet the space and requirements for the growth for existing programs for the future. Currently, the services within the clinic are provided through multiple locations due to space constraints at the current location," Smith said.

The new 73,000 square foot facility is a joint venture between MCNDH and Indian Health Services and will employ 160 people.

"The addition of this space

will allow for the expansion of services through the purchase of equipment to meet the user population needs to increase coordination of care by re-

Health - 4



MUSCOGEE NATION§

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

Ribbon-cutting held for new food distribution center



Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony May 28 in Coweta, Okla., for the new MCN Koweta Food Distribution Center.

New facility launched in northeast tribal jurisdiction

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

COWETA, Okla. — A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held May 28 for the new Muscogee (Creek) Nation Koweta Food Distribution Center in Coweta. The new building, which is

located next to the Koweta Indian Health Center, will serve as a distribution site for Native Americans who qualify and are in need of nutritional assistance.

This is the third distribution site within the MCN jurisdiction.

"This is a need in this area for the citizens who receive assistance through our program," MCN Food Distribution Program Director Anna Sterner

said. "We went after a grant to get this building built and this is the result."

MCN FDP serves low income Native American households, as an alternative to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Red Stone Construction Services LLC of Tulsa, Okla., constructed the 7,900 square foot

"THIS IS A GOOD LOCATION FOR THE NEW SITE. THIS BUILDING WILL BE PUT TO GOOD USE FOR OUR FAMILIES WHO LIVE THROUGHOUT THE AREA."

- MCN PRINCIPAL CHIEF GEORGE TIGER

building, which will now serve over 300 families who live in the northeastern part of the MCN boundaries.

Before the new center, families in that region picked up their food from a tailgate site or made a trip to the Okmulgee facility.

"It was an inconvenience for our citizens who live in this area," Sterner said. "Having this site will make it easier for the citizens."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger spoke about how this site is a great resource for the citi-

"This is a good location for the new site," Tiger said. "This building will be put to good use

for our families who live throughout the area."

According to Sterner, in the month of May, FDP served over 3,000 families within the 11-county juris-

diction. "Having this site is a tremendous help not only to our department, but to our citizens

and to our Nation," Sterner said.

For more information on the new distribution site, contact Sterner at: 918-549-2401.

Miss Indian Oklahoma Pageant comes to MCN



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Carmen Sankey was crowned 2015 Miss Indian Oklahoma at the 46th annual Miss and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma Pageant May 14 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

2015 royalty crowned at Dome **building**

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women hosted the 46th annual Miss and Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma Pageant May 14 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

One of the goals of OFIW is to unite Native women from across the State of Oklahoma and create friendships through culture and traditions.

Five contestants competed for Miss Indian Oklahoma, while three competed for the Jr. Miss

By the end of the night, after cultural demonstrations, presenting platforms and impromptu questions, Carmen Sankey was crowned 2015 Miss Indian Oklahoma.

"I'm just really happy and excited," Sankey said.

Sankey is an 18-year-old senior at Lawton MacArthur High School, is of Cheyenne, Arapaho and Comanche descent and is the daughter of Sheldon and Anna Sankey of Lawton.

"I'm just excited to what this year has to bring; to get to know all the tribes of Oklahoma... so I can represent them all," Sankey

Sankey platform is promoting healthy lifestyles for Native Americans.

Faithlyn Seawright was crowned 2015 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma.

Seawright is a 17-year-old junior at Latta High School, is of Chickasaw and Choctaw descent, and is the daughter of Larry Seawright and Gwen Burris of Ada.

Seawright's platform is implementing Native awareness in schools by overcoming identity barriers.

The outgoing 2014 Miss Indian Oklahoma was Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jordan Harmon.

"It was a real blessing to have this title... I was really proud to be able to represent my platform of Native Americans in education," Harmon said.

Harmon attends the University of Tulsa College of Law.

Harmon shared some advice to the incoming princesses about what the next year may

"Times are going to get hard and it's going to get stressful but you have to fight through the stress," Harmon said. "Keep going and put a smile on your face and it will be great."

Jordan Harmon is 23-yearsold, from Tulsa and is a member of the Deer Clan and Koweta Tribal Town. She is the daughter of Shonday and David Harmon.

For more information about OFIW go online to: www.ofiw.

EXPANSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trying to find something that's flexible with school and just be able to provide for myself and my daughter."

She added that having so many potential employers in one spot makes the task a lot more manageable.

"Especially if you're prepared, you can literally knock out ten interviews in a day," Bear said. "That makes it easy for someone like myself."

Bear thought her employment prospects were pretty good.

"I think as long as I'm constantly putting my best foot forward and presenting myself the best way that I can, being precise in my answers, I think I'm going to get a job," Bear said.

Kent Staff from Tulsa attended, looking especially for jobs that did not require previous experience or training.

"Construction or laborer, something like that will be the easiest because I don't have any skills other than that yet," Staff said.

The fair filled a big hole in his job search.

"I think it is helpful that it's here and they try to get people jobs," Staff said.

Manhattan-Redstone TERO Coordinator Lauren Boche said the job fair was a major asset for companies like her

"I'm very excited about it. It gives our subcontractors a huge opportunity to build their manpower, not only for this project, but for their company," Boche said. "It gets them wellknown with an Indian Nation."

MCN opens social services satellite office in Jenks

MCN Social Services/Media Release

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services satellite office in Jenks has officially opened to citizens.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens and citizens of federally recognized tribes who reside within the MCN boundaries will be able to apply for services including housing and utility as well as burial and energy assistance.

"Opening a northern satellite office for the Social Services Department is an exciting opportunity for the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, members of other federally recognized tribes and the Nation," Social Services Supervisor Vicky Harrell said. "It is our hope to ease some of the miles and time most citizens cannot afford by offering those same services that are provided in Okmulgee here in the Tulsa area."

The satellite office will serve those in Creek, Tulsa and Wagoner counties and portions of Mayes and Rogers counties. Citizens may apply at the location from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Literacy Program announces holiday challenge winner



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Literacy Program Project Manager Randi Narcomey-Watson presents Zane Hamilton with an iPad Mini April 23 at Wetumka Middle School in Wetumka, Okla., for being the winner of the Read and Win Holiday Challenge.

Hamilton receives incentive for reading

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Literacy Program announced Zane Hamilton as the winner of the Read and Win Holiday Challenge and presented him with an iPad Mini April 23 at Wetumka Middle School in Wetumka.

"The program is for all citizens. It's to help with literacy," said MCN Literacy Program Project Manager Randi Narcomey-Watson.

The program's mission is to provide all Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the MCN community with the opportunity to improve their literacy and preserve the Myskoke language through a partnership with myON Reader, an online digital library.

"It's an online reading system and it's individually tailored to each student," Narcomey-Watson said.

This online system gives access to more than 4,000 digital books. Each participant must take a placement exam to gauge their reading level and interests.

"The studies show that in order to help a child grow with their reading, is that you have to get them what they like to read and then where they should be reading," Narcomey-Watson said.

The system uses the information to recommend reading material.

"What we usually do is to help generate some reading and some excitement from our kids," Narcomey-Watson said. "We work with mostly the JOM and the school districts that have been using myON and we create challenges for them."

This past challenge was designed for Johnson O'Malley, Muscogee (Creek) and Head Start students ages 3-18 and was based on the time spent reading from Nov. 3, 2014 - Jan. 16.

Hamilton is a 13-year-old, eighth grader from Wetumka Middle School and spent 19 hours and 52 minutes reading over 75 days.

"I read everyday," Hamilton

The program assists students with reading, comprehension and vocabulary challenges they might face.

"It helps me in class," Hamilton said.

The program is targeted to help students become college and career ready.

For more information contact: 918-261-3519 or visit: www. muscogeecreekreads.com.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens named as Gates Scholars



Submission

Skeeter shares about academic success

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Out of 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholarship recipients for the class of 2015 from across the United States, 38 are from Oklahoma and five are Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

According to the website, the GMS program is funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and was established in 1999 to promote academic excellence and provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with a significant financial need to reach their highest potential.

Glenpool High School gradu-

ate Aubrey Skeeter is one of the five citizens who received the honor.

"Getting Gates means a lot to me because it proves that I did something right," Skeeter said.

Skeeter is the second student from her high school to receive the scholarship.

While in high school, Skeeter was very involved and dedicated to her academics.

"I've just really focused on academics more than going out," Skeeter said.

Skeeter graduated as class salutatorian, was president of the National Honor Society, Native American Student Association, Student Council and a member of her school's softball and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl teams. Skeeter was also the 2013-2014 Yuchi (Euchee) tribal princess.

Each of the 1,000 students will be awarded a scholarship that can be used to pursue a degree in any undergraduate major and selected graduate programs at accredited colleges or universi-

Skeeter plans to attend Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo., which is a private liberal arts and sciences college, where she plans to study biology and then go on to medical school.

"I want to come back, I want to end up working for the Creek Nation. I want to be able to provide public health care for the Creek Nation," Skeeter said.

Skeeter shared how her parents inspired her.

"From the time I was in kindergarten and younger than that, my parents always told me, 'you're going to go to college; you're going to go to college,' Skeeter said. "It's never been a question that I think I was going to go to college, it's always been where I am going to go."

Skeeter is the 18-year-old daughter of John and Denise Skeeter from Glenpool and a member of Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground.

The following Muscogee (Creek) citizens were also named as Gates Millennium Scholars: Blake Colburn from Checotah High School, Storm Mata from Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, Yannah Wind from Weleetka High School and Holly Jamerson from Coconino High School in Arizona.

For more information about the GMS program visit: www. gmsp.org.

4-H participants polish public speaking skills



4-H participants prepare to give their speeches during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program Speech Contest May 12 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee, Okla.

Contest promotes life, career tool

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Cherokee Nation citizen Chelsea Crawford paced in the hallway of the College of the Muscogee Nation May 12, preparing for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H Program's inaugural Speech Contest.

It was the Creek County High School sophomore's first time to compete.

"I would like to be a (4-H) district officer so I'm going to try and get better at public speaking," Crawford said.

Herriman

Illustrated presentationjunior division

First- Bethany Foster Second- Jonathan Leopard Third- Hanna Leopard Fourth- Callie Davis

PowerPoint- senior division

First- Chelsea Crawford Second- John Luke Davis

Speech- senior division

First- Dakota Neal Second- Sarah Valenzuela

Speech- intermediate division

First- Colt Robertson



Crawford was dressed in shoulder pads and a green football uniform.

"My mom plays women's tackle football so I'm presenting how football can be healthy. To get fit, you can play football or you can play football for fun," Crawford said.

Twenty-two youth from around the MCN jurisdiction gave a total of 31 presentations in the 4-H speech contest.

MCN 4-H Program Manager Billy Haltom said he was pleased with the turnout and has high hopes for next year's competition.

Haltom believes the elements taught through the speech presentations are a valuable life skill.

"If I could only teach them one thing, that's what I would teach them," Haltom said.

Contest winners are as follows:

Illustrated presentationsenior division

First- Corey Cecil Second- Hanna Fletcher Third-Brandon Cecil

Illustrated presentationintermediate division

First- Wyatt Wilson Second- Makayla Crawford, and Darren and JoDawn

Speech- junior division

First- Kaylee Herriman Second- JoDawn Herriman Third- Kelsey Smith Fourth- Clarissa Smith Fifth- Allie Allen

First year ritual

First- Clarissa Smith Second- Kelsey Smith

Extemporaneous- senior division

First- Sarah Valenzuela Second- Dakota Neal Third- Sarah Olson

Extemporaneousintermediate division

First- Wyatt Wilson Second- Miriam Olson Third- Colt Robertson

Extemporaneous-junior division

First- Clarissa Smith Second- Allie Allen Third- Kelsey Smith

For information about the MCN 4-H Program, 'like' the organization's Facebook page at: www.facebook. com/pages/Creek-Nation-4-H/545893172206599?fref=ts, or call Billy Haltom at: 918-732-7628.

MCN working to implement VAWA provisions



MNN File Graphic

Multi-entity push underway to update tribal code

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is in the process of preparing to implement the jurisdictional powers approved by the March 6, 2013 Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, which added provisions allowing individual tribes to prosecute non-Native on Native sexual violence occurring on their land.

According to stipulations in the law, tribes were not allowed to exercise these powers until two years later unless the U.S. Attorney General's Office confirmed their ability to meet VAWA guidelines regarding the rights of a defendant.

Shelly Harrison, prosecutor with the MCN Attorney General's Office said that MCN attended VAWA pilot project meetings during this time period and

coordinated with best practices for implementing, but is still working on making the necessary changes internally.

"While we were

in that process, we were bringing together the different groups who had an interest in it like the Family Violence Prevention Program, Lighthorse, the courts and during those discussions, there were other aspects that relate to handling cases involving domestic violence that we felt we need to change in the code as well," Harrison said.

She gave details on these changes.

"Documentation, all of the forms that need to be filled out when they're in court and how the actual jury pools are going to work," Harrison said. "All of that stuff needs to be changed in the code."

Harrison said progress has been made however.

"The majority of everything as far as the courts have to do as far as having legal counsel, having things recorded, having our codes published, all of that stuff is already taken care of," Harrison said. "It's just changing some

of the language in the code to allow the jurisdiction and to make sure we're covering the rights in the code."

Under VAWA, the jury selection for sexual violence cases has to include non-Natives unlike other tribal criminal proceed-

She explained how MCN is looking to address this.

"Our current draft has employees of the Nation as we pull for non-Natives," she said. "It has to be a part of our community since when we're working for the Nation, you are basically part of the community. That's the best plan we have right now for that."

The act defines sexual violence as domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and criminal violations of protection orders.

She outlined the prospective timetable and process from

"Hopefully in the next few months we'll get all that feedback from everybody and be

other tribes on "I THINK THAT THIS IS A GREAT TIME WHERE WE SEE THE DOOR CRACKED OPEN A LITTLE BIT FOR THE TRIBE TO REASSERT THEIR JURISDICTION AND I THINK WE ARE TAKING **FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT.**

- MCN DISTRICT COURT JUDGE GREG BIGLER

able to get it incorporated and get the final draft done," Harri-

She explained that the tribe would provide the indigent counsel (court appointed attorneys) required by VAWA through the system already in place for Native defendants and outlined the prospective sentencing for sexual violence crimes.

"Under the revisions, the first offense for domestic violence would be up to a year. After that, a second or subsequent offense would be a felony, which would carry up to three years," Harrison said.

The tribe currently uses the Okmulgee County Jail for those incarcerated through MCN courts but may utilize U.S. Department of Justice facilities for VAWA cases.

"If it's a short amount of time, it will probably be in the same Okmulgee County Jail," Harrison said. "If it's longer, we would try to work with DOJ and the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) to see if there's a facility that they could be placed at so that it saves cost to the Nation."

MCN District Court Judge Greg Bigler spoke again on concerns he raised regarding the cost of appeals in a 'Muscogee Nation News' April 15, 2013 ar-

"You could probably talk to the Attorney General specifically but it's like anything else we do where we are asserting our self-determination, it costs money to assert your rights as a government because if you do, the state and others are going to resist it," Bigler said.

However, he said several tribes have already exercised this jurisdiction without incident.

"They prosecuted them and either they pled guilty or were found guilty and that was that, nothing unusual happened," Bigler said. "That's not to say it won't at some point but whether that's a likely chance or not, I

don't know." Bigler believes that MCN will provide the necessary resources in the event of an appeal.

"They every step so far.

From 100 years back to assertions of our litigation...asserting the tribal courts' right to exist, litigating and protecting our rights in the car tag cases," Bigler said. "They've always done that."

He views the implementation of VAWA at MCN as a step towards further self-determina-

"I think that this is a great time where we see the door cracked open a little bit for the tribe to reassert their jurisdiction and I think we are taking full advantage of it," Bigler said.

Harrison recommends that Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are victims of domestic violence call the MCN Lighthorse Police Department at: 918-732-7800 for fast response and FVPP for support at: 918-732-7869.

"Their advocates would be able to help them navigate the system and act as a liaison between Lighthorse and them and my office or the courts," Harrison said.

tant to our people is to have the ability to have resources where their health is being addressed," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said.

One Architecture Managing Principal and CEO Shelby Navarro, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, designed the new facility along with the new MCN Community Hospital in Okemah.

One difference with this project is that MCN Tribal Construction Services will act as oversight contractor for quality control purposes.

Construction Engineer James Allred explained that after the architect has finished the design, the department will start taking bids for a general contractor to

Allred expects to begin accepting bids in 60-90 days.

How to: apply for hardship assistance

Department helps citizens with breaks in income

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website, the MCN Social Services Department consists of multiple pro-

Applications for hardship assistance are one of the most common requests the department receives.

The program provides assistance to enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizens who have had a break in income or an extenuating circumstance causing a financial hardship beyond their control.

Direct vendor payments may be used towards shelter or utility costs up to \$500 per year.

Step 1 — Applicants must meet certain guidelines and provide the following information:

- Citizenship cards for all household members or a printout from the MCN Citizenship Office.
- Copy of Social Security cards for every member in the household
- Birth certificate and/or driver license for non-Indian household members
- Income verification for every member in the household
- Description/reason why there was a break in income
- Bill for which you are requesting assistance for
- Additional information could be required.

Step 2 — Applications must be filled out in full.

The MCN Social Services 2445.

hardship application is available on the MCN website at: www.mcn-nsn.gov.

Go to the 'Departments' tab and select 'Social Services' in the dropdown box. When that page is open, look to the left to see the choices and find the 'Hardship' hyperlink. The hardship application is close to the middle and highlighted in

Click to download the application and write clearly while filling it out.

Step 3 — Turn in the application

The MCN Social Services Department now accepts walk-ins at their location: 2971 N. Wood Drive in Okmulgee, OK, the MCN Southern Regional Office: 333 S. Washita in Wetumka, OK or in Jenks (see media release on page 2). The client may be able to meet with a caseworker that day.

The application can also be turned in through fax at: 918-549-2494, email at: socialserv@ mcn-nsn.gov or mailed in to the MCN Social Services Department at: P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447.

The caseworker determines applicant eligibility. If there are other documents needed for the application, the caseworker will let you know.

The department is located between the MCN Housing Department and Food Distribution, north of Oklahoma Loop 56 near the main MCN Tribal Complex at U.S. Highway 75 in Okmulgee or in Jenks (see media release on page

For more information regarding the hardship application and other programs within the MCN Social Services Department call: 918-549-

MCN holds event to bring employees' children to work

Employees share daily routine with children

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Nation Youth Services held the first ever Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day May 29 at the College of the Muscogee Nation and MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

ing their summer relaxing, some students decided to make the most of it by experiencing and learning new things.

The goals of the event were to expose youth to the important work of their parent/guardian, show youth the value of their education and its connection to the workplace.

Youth, grades fifth-10th and 15-years-old and younger were eligible to attend.

The event featured activities for the youth and their parents/guardian, including on the job exercises developed by the parent/guardian's department or program.

"We're providing a lot of different activities, workshops, resource fair, there will be tours even a Creek Fit workout session," MNYS Director Nancy mcn-nsn.gov.

Mason said.

The event also provided the youth an opportunity to develop a personal career plan and increase knowledge of the employment opportunities with and recourses of MCN.

Employees took advantage of the opportunity to show their children what they do at

Gano Perez brought his son Kade Perez to work with him.

"I brought Kade... to show While most youth are spend- him what I actually do at work to pay the bills and what the tribe offers the community; to show him around the complex," Gano said.

> Gano is a GIS cultural technician for the MCN Cultural Preservation Department.

> "He does pretty interesting work... It's pretty fun to get to learn about the whole complex," Kade said.

> This year, the event was limited to non-health Okmulgee worksites and the employee must have registered and obtained approval by their supervisor to participate.

> "It's kind of small this year but it's something we want to build on and maybe have it as an annual event," Mason said.

For more information conof the complex, the college and tact Youth Services at: 918-549-2557 or youthservices@

HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ducing the use of outside entities to provide services," Smith said.

The facility will provide services including: primary care, audiology, optometry, dental, physical therapy, dialysis, behavioral health services, podiatry as well as a pharmacy with drive-through, specialty clinic and wellness center.

"The one thing that is impor-

build the facility.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen finances ongoing education through sports



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Raquel Grant grew up in small town Oklahoma and created a path for herself through college athletics to pursue her education.

Grant focuses on being a student before athletics

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Muscogee (Creek) citizen Raquel Grant grew up in small town Oklahoma, and created a path for herself to pursue athletics.

Wewoka High School in Wewoka and signed to play Division II basketball being from a small town has at Southwestern College in advantages and disadvantages. Winfield, Kan.

"I'm the only one from my school in Wewoka history to sign to play basketball and to said. "It's a good thing because finish it," Grant said.

unable to play her freshman year and she transferred to can do something with their Eastern Oklahoma State College lives." in Wilburton.

While at EOSC, Grant made her father to reach this goal. the dean's honor roll, played in Award, All-Tourney Award and 2015 Most Outstanding Athlete.

Grant made First Team All- success in collegiate athletics. Defense, was second in the team in scoring with minutes played.

"I've experienced and seen so many new people and new abilities. It drives me to be Wind Clan and the daughter better; to become a better of Lorie Proctor and Mandrill person," Grant said.

Grant graduated with her associate degree in general studies from EOSC.

Afterwards, she signed a letter of intent to Friends University in Wichita, Kan., to continue playing basketball and finish her degree in health management and then continue on to pursue a nursing degree.

"I need to be more of a student her education through college because grades will make you get to where you want to be," Grant graduated from Grant said. "I will have three degrees by the time I graduate."

Grant shared about how

"It makes you feel good but it also makes me feel stressful... you don't want to fail," Grant without them, I wouldn't have Due to an injury, Grant was the drive to do better; to show them that a small class student

Grant has been inspired by

"He always wanted me to live the Region II Championship my dreams and he pushes me game twice, and received the to where I can have it. Without All-Conference Region Team him, I wouldn't be here," Grant

She shared advice for seeking

"Basketball will always be nation for steals and led the there in sports but your grades will continue to make your lives better for your major," Grant

> Grant is a member of the Grant of Wewoka.

MvskokeMedia

CMN student respondent shares educational journey



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Codie Artusee was selected as student respondent for the 2015 College of the Muscogee Nation commencement ceremony held April 24 at the CMN campus in Okmulgee, Okla.

Challenge Bowl competition inspires road to success

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Codie Artusee was selected as student respondent for the 2015 College of the Muscogee Nation commencement ceremony held April 24 at the CMN campus in Okmulgee.

Every year, CMN faculty selects a graduating student to speak during the commencement ceremony. These students

are selected on academic persistence and their demonstration of the college's core values.

"I was very nervous and honored at the same time because I know it's a very high honor to be asked to speak at graduation to represent my classmates," Artusee said.

The core CMN values are respect, integrity, responsibility, humility and wisdom.

"I have finally done what I medic for six months before re-

thought I was going to do. I've finally molded my life around the core values of this college and to be asked to be the respondent, means I have embodied at least some of these," Artusee said.

Artusee has had many accomplishments on his educational journey and looks forward to the future.

While attending Dewar High School, Artusee participated in the MCN Challenge Bowl for two years and won first place

both times. 'IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL, I CONSIDER THIS COLLEGE LITERALLY LIKE A

SECOND HOME." - CMN CLASS OF 2015 STUDENT RESPONDENT

CODIE ARTUSEE

The competition inspired him to earn his degree from CMN.

While in high school, Artusee attended both the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee and

In 2011, Artusee received his certification as an emergency medical services technician from Roger State University in Claremore and worked as a

turning to CMN to further his education.

While at CMN, Artusee was named to the president's honor roll, earned an Associate of Arts in Native American studies and a certificate in Myskoke language studies.

"It's been wonderful. I consider this college literally like a second home." Artusee said. "The faculty is very friendly, very helpful no matter what kind of questions you have, they'll answer them to the best of their

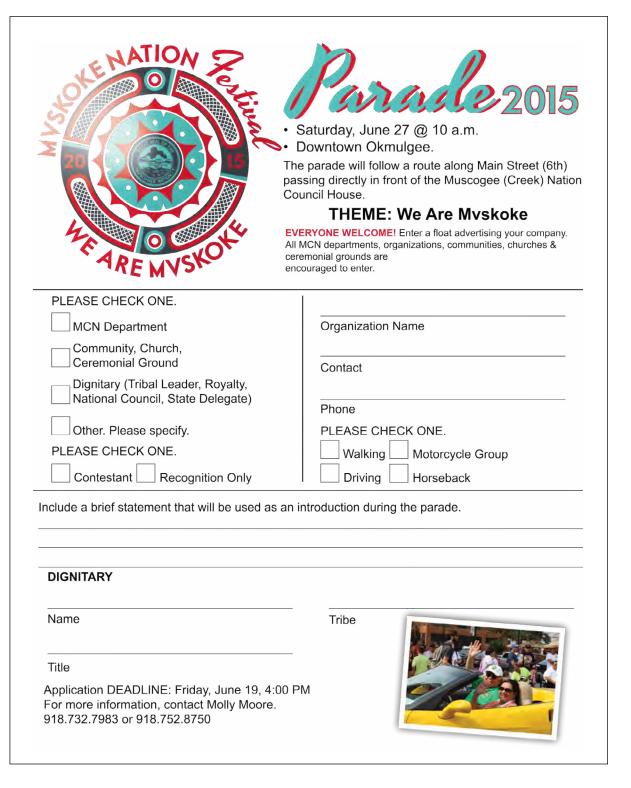
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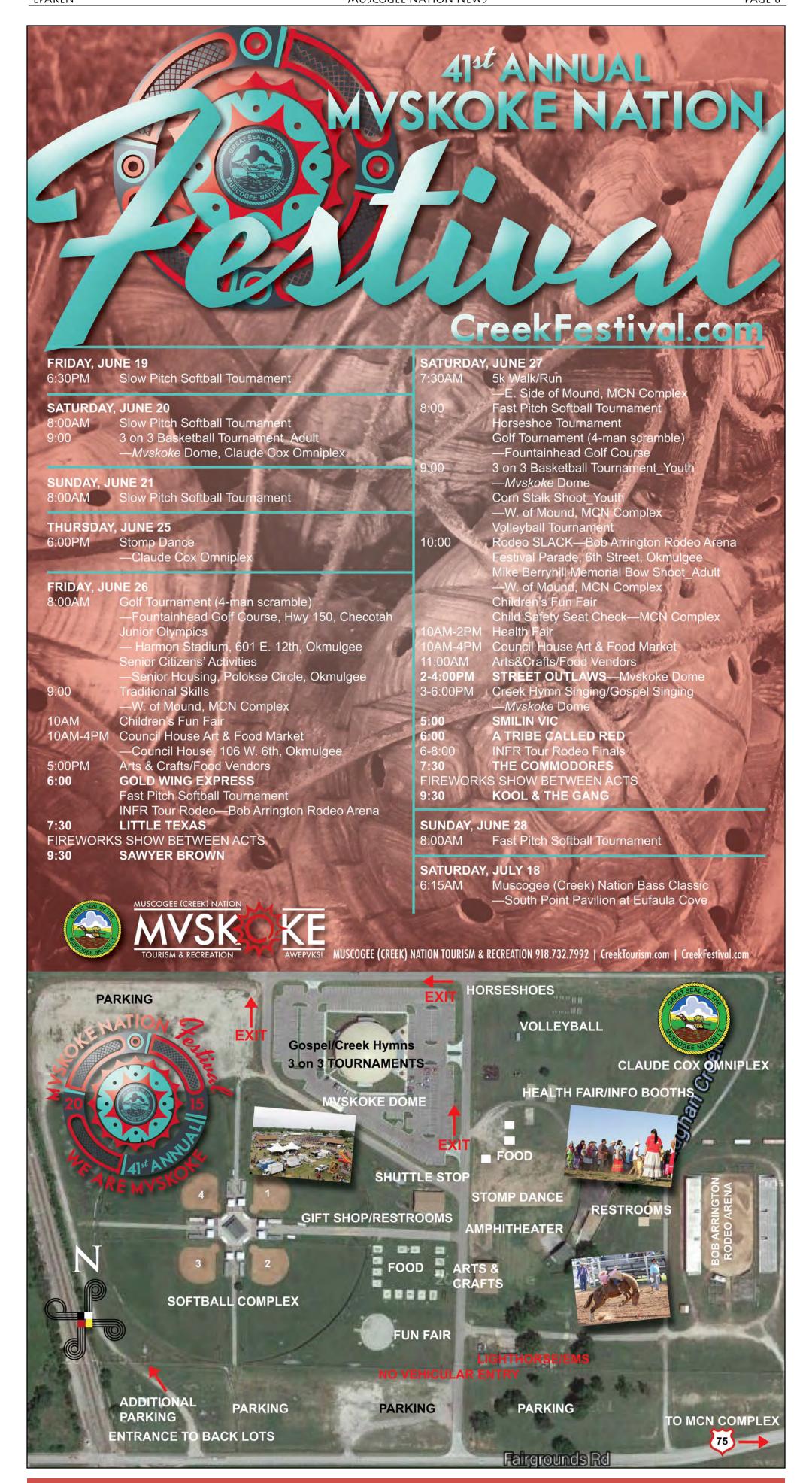
Artusee plans to continue his education by obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in information studies from the University of Oklahoma.

"I'm going to take a little bit of a break before I continue my education but then I'll go for my bachelor's and master's," Artusee said.

Artusse's long-term goal is then to obtain a master's degree in library and information studies degree.

Artusee is a member of the Raccoon Clan and the son of Audie Artusee and the late Lori







Native juveniles lost to gaps in communication

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator



Shane Holuby/Intern

Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs and tribes in the state have collaborated to form the Oklahoma Juvenile Justice Task Force to help Native American youth in the justice system.

Task force pushes to build bridge to success for 'voiceless' youth.

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Located in the heart of Oklahoma, 14 special sites in Norman hold youth lost from society. These sites are not schools, but rehabilitation centers, detention centers and jails for juveniles who started crossing the strong arm of the law at a young age.

Native American youth from all over the state serve time in these facilities, amounting anywhere from two weeks to eight months.

'They're on a pipeline from juvenile detention centers to dropping out, to going on to prison," Norman Public Schools Indian Education Coordinator Lucyann Harjo said. "These are kids in a pipeline of abuse, violent homes and they're just stuck in this."

Harjo works with Native juveniles in Norman assisting them with their educational needs.

jo has felt that she tutored the youth, and when their time was up, she has simply given them a pat on the

back and told them 'good luck.'

"I call them children without a voice, crying out for help and it's not there," Harjo said. "And so they stay in this rut... We're trying to help them, but what we're doing is not even near (enough)... it's a heavy burden on my heart."

Harjo said it would take better communication and collaboration on the local, state and tribal level to break the cycle and keep youth from falling through the cracks.

"It's just going to take a lot more educating tribes to collaborate well with all of these state agencies, with juvenile detention centers to address the concerns that we're seeing," Harjo said.

Like an answered prayer, Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs and tribes have been working behind the scenes to intervene in the youth's lives.

HOW DID STATISTICS UNCOVER THE ISSUE?

Through the voiced concerns of individuals like Harjo and statistics that highlighted a deeper problem, gaps in services for Native American youth were seen by various entities.

To receive federal funding, Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs is required to produce reports on DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact).

DMC is defined as the disproportionate number of minority youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system as compared to the racial and ethnic populations of the same area.

OJA contracted with the University of Oklahoma to complete 'The Analysis of DMC in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Lawton Final Report, which was published Jan. 15, 2012.

"Everybody knows that minorities are overrepresented (in the justice system). What we were really looking to do was

not just find out, you For some time, Har- **CCI** call them children with- know; to the extent, out a voice, crying out for but look at why that minority overrepresentation exists," report author and OU Assistant Professor of

Criminal Justice Dr. Paul Ketchum said.

help and it's not there."

— Lucyann Harjo

The report combined court, arrest, infraction and crime data with interviews from individuals working in the juvenile justice system in the Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas.

The data included all minority groups as compared to the white population.

"We got about what we expected. The numbers are disturbing in many ways," Ketchum said. "Blacks and Native Americans are two-and-a-half to three times as likely as whites to be arrested in Oklahoma. You know; and that's assuming that

The full Analysis of DMC in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Lawton Final Report is available at: www.ok.gov/okyouth/documents/ Analysis%20of%20DMC%20in%200klahoma%20City,Tulsa,%20and%20Lawton.pdf.

white juvenile criminal rates are kind of your baseline."

After publication, Oklahoma State Rep. Seneca Scott proposed an interim study narrowing the scope to Native American juveniles in order to provide more information for the Native American Caucus.

"...It was brought to my attention that although the numbers were smaller overall, the number of Indian kids in juvenile detention, still our rates were not decreasing," Scott said. "And that was unacceptable to us Native American advocates..."

According to data on Native American juveniles obtained by the Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS), in 2012, minority disparity occurs at different points of contact during the judicial process

MCN boundaries.

Those that lie partially within the jurisdiction include: Hughes, Mayes, Muskogee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties.

Counties were broken into three categories describing DMC at arrest—low, moderate and high.

Almost all counties within the jurisdiction exhibited Native American juvenile overrepresentation at arrest.

Creek County was categorized as high for arrest figures of Native American youth. See Figure 1.

For other points of contact, counties were categorized as having equal representation or overrepresentation of Native American juveniles as compared to the white population.

Creek County reported Native American overrepresentation at detention. See Figure 2.

Hughes County reported insufficient data at four of the five contact points.

Mayes County reported Native American overrepresentation occurring at three of the five contact points. See Figure 2.

McIntosh County reported insufficient data at four of the five contact points.

Muskogee County reported Native American overrepresentation at court referral and delinquency. See Figure 2.

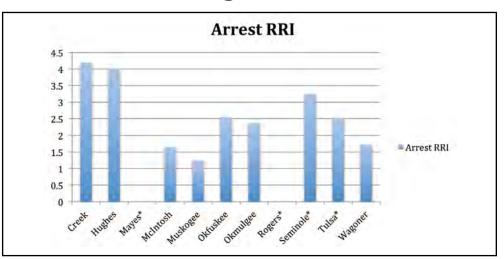
Okfuskee County reported insufficient data at three of the five contact points.

Okmulgee County reported Native American overrepresentation at court referral.

Rogers County reported Native American overrepresentation at four of the five contact points. See Figure 2.

Seminole County reported Native

Figure 1



$RRI = Native Rate \div White Rate$

consisting of arrest, referrals to court, American overrepresentation at court redetention placement, petitions filed and ferral and delinquency. delinquency.

These statistics were measured using the Relative Rate Index (RRI).

The equation used for calculation is the minority rate of Native American juveniles divided by the rate of white juve-

All counties in Oklahoma were reviewed. Statistics for the 11-county MCN jurisdiction were obtained, but the data reflected counties as a whole including portions of counties that lie outside of the

Tulsa County reported Native American overrepresentation at court referral and secure detention.

Wagoner County reported Native American overrepresentation at court referral.

OJA would like to conduct surveys based upon specific tribal jurisdiction, specific offense, locations and interven-

An updated DMC data survey is scheduled for June.

CIt's not the kids that are different. It's the systems that are treating them differently."

— Dr. Paul Ketchum

WHAT DO THE REPORTS MEAN?

The 2012 JOLTS statistics reflect that Native American overrepresentation occurs throughout Oklahoma at many contact points during the juvenile judicial process.

Ketchum also noted many items stood out to him in his DMC report to OJA.

"What was really weird about it was the rates of overrepresentation were identical," Ketchum said. "So even though you had completely different styles in how likely and how often they arrested out of 100 stops, the overrepresentation of blacks, Latinos and Native Americans remain the same; which was just really telling."

Ketchum indicated interactions between whites and non-whites were usually through work and not through the neighborhood they lived in or friend-

"So there's this very segregated lifestyle.

And most of them it didn't dawn on them until I was asking these questions about things that they really thought about because whiteness is kind of the norm," Ketchum said. "So, you know; to their credit many of them were kind of shocked and disturbed to find how little they interacted with non-whites other than through work."

He concluded that the differences in contact with law enforcement and the judicial system were not due to the youth themselves.

"So the gist of it becomes that most of this overrepresentation, most of the difference between arrest rates, conviction rates, type of punishment, etc.; most of that difference is due to some sort of bias in the system," Ketchum said. "It's not the kids that are different. It's the systems that are treating them differently."

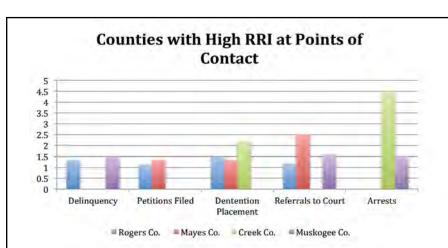
A majority of interviews Ketchum conducted reflected the person's view that different races and ethnicities have different family values. However, through his own investiga-

that this is not the case. "It shows that family values and structures are very similar across racial and ethnic groups," Ketchum said. "So it's just

a misperception."

tions and national research, he has found

u e



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett said people tend to shy away from juvenile justice issues, but that does not mean youth problems should be ignored.

"They are forgotten people. It's crazy to me," Barnett said. "On the one hand again, I understand the reluctance but these are human beings... We may help them and they may fail, but I know if we don't help them it's 100 percent guaranteed that they are likely to fail. We have to help them."

Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs Deputy Division Director of Community Based Youth Services Anna Kelly said OJA was not surprised by the DMC findings, but wanted to address the issue.

"Prior even to that report, we were aware of the issue and we were attempting to address it," Kelly said.

Ketchum plans to conduct another study analyzing the rate at which individuals of various races and ethnicities commit crimes. He said having an actual number would incite change.

"I don't think that's as powerful as saying that 93 percent or whatever the number is... We as a society love numbers, so that makes it harder for policy makers to

Justice - 9

JUSTICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ignore," Ketchum said.

The Oklahoma Native American Juvenile Justice Task Force was created in fall 2014. The purpose of the group is to preserve and protect Native American juvenile rights through communication and advocacy between multiple federal, state, local and tribal agencies.

ONAJJTF aims to strengthen the connection between juveniles and their tribes and promote prevention, intervention, reunification and reintegration for at-risk Native youth.

"The task force has been the first opportunity for us to partner with tribes and talk about the youth that we have in common and what the tribes could bring to the table as services for their youth," Kelly said.

Barnett serves as the co-chair for the task force.

Ketchum said the task force fascinates him because instead of having a short-lived effort to lead a charge, it has become a liaison between the state, tribes and law enforcement.

"I suspect it will eventually no longer be called a task force but be some sort of, you know; committee or some

name for a group. And act on a more permanent basis just because they found so much that needs to be done that they can kind of act as a coordinator for," Ketchum said. "So, I have great hope for it."

Scott said convening has helped to get agencies on the same page.

"It's six months underway and I think the real exciting part is going to be on, what is the different information sharing we have about tribal code updates down the road that might need to be aligned, and diversion programs that are best practices," Scott said.

Kelly said OJA sees the collaboration between entities as a triple win for the youth, state and tribes.

"It seems like everybody that's involved has a lot of passion," Kelly said.

Kelly said relationships with each tribe would differ due to tribal resources and other resources available in each area.

All involved reiterated the task force is in its infancy stages and will be working to fill in gaps in services.

A tribal liaison from each of the eight OJA districts will join the task force. OJA has also invited a liaison from each Nation to join the conversation.

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes passed Resolution 15-09 on Jan. 9, in support of ONAJJTF and working with OJA and tribal governments to address the issue. See info bar.

Scott authored Oklahoma House Bill 1834, which passed March 9 and a similar measure passed the Oklahoma Senate on April 20. See info bar.

The law requires juvenile justice agents to inform the tribe within three days if a Native American youth is taken into custody.

Scott said that the law, which is similar to the Indian Child Welfare Act, fills a gap that was indeterminate on whether tribes could be involved in juvenile cases.

The law becomes effective Nov. 1.

"Technically we're the second state in the U.S. to require tribal notification," Barnett said.

Barnett said MCN would be able to tend to the case, follow the youth in court and make sure that educational and health needs are met.

For MCN, the National Council passed NCA 15-018 on Jan. 26, funding \$107,987 for the MCN Children and Family Services Tribal Juvenile Justice Program. See info bar.

The money will be used to hire a tribal juvenile justice officer to address juvenile delinquency that occurs on trust or restricted land, and associated costs such as supplies, vehicle usage and fuel.

The position is filled, and the individual will be trained by the Nov. 1 effective date.

Barnett said there would also be a need for social workers for intervention and prevention. Details have not been announced.

The Council passed TR 15-058 on April 25, for the ability to use the Sac and Fox Nation detention center for the MCN Juvenile Justice Program if needed. See info bar.

Barnett also serves on the MCN Juvenile Justice Task Force. The MCN task force utilizes representatives from Children and Family Services, Youth Services, Lighthorse Tribal Police, as well as the Reintegration Program, Supreme Court, National Council and Attorney General's Office.

A common theme among the task force members was the collaboration

"The timing is here. The timing is now. Now we have to act. Now we have to do something," Barnett said.

Back in Norman, Harjo is excited about the future.

"There's just so much need there that I'm really glad that we're focusing on it and we're trying to get help and we're trying to educate people about this huge concern and getting the word out so that we might have a better system in place for our children," Harjo said.

Legislation

Legislation passed to address Native American overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

NCA 15-018 passed 12-0 on Jan. 26, appropriating \$107,987 from the Motor Vehicle Tax Fund Account to the MCN Children and Family Services Tribal Juvenile Justice Program to comply with MCN Code Annotated Title 6 titled, 'Children and Family Relations Regarding Juvenile Delinquency.' MCN Principal Chief George Tiger signed the amendment Jan. 27.

TR 15-058 passed 14-0 on April 25, forming an agreement with the Sac and Fox Nation to use their detention center for the MCN Juvenile Justice Program if necessary. Tiger signed the resolution April 28.

Inter-Tribal Council of the Five **Civilized Tribes**

Resolution 15-09 passed unanimously Jan. 9, in support of the Oklahoma Native American Juvenile Justice Task Force in developing memorandum of understandings between the Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs and tribal government systems.



State of Oklahoma

House Bill 1834 passed March 9 with a vote of 93-1 and seven members excused. Reps. Seneca Scott and AJ Griffin authored the bill.

HB 1834 passed in the Senate April 20 with a vote of 44-0 and four excused.

Gov. Mary Fallin signed the law May 6 stating OJA or the local agency, "shall notify the primary tribe or nation of membership or citizenship within three judicial days of completing an intake of such determination," if any juvenile is determined to have Native American ancestry that would make them eligible for citizenship.

Citizen involved in shooting incident sent home from hospital



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III (Trey) is moved from his hospital bed to his wheel chair using a lift, while Trey's mother, Zondra Magness and father, Monroe Bird Jr., along with five nurses and other individuals assist.

Health insurance company denies medical benefits

Jessica McBride/Editorial Assistant

TULSA, Okla. — June 1 was bittersweet for Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III (Trey) and his family. After almost four months in hospital care, Trey was sent back to his home in Boley.

"I feel a little down, you know, I should be going to rehab instead of going home," Trey said.

Because of insurance denial, he was sent home instead of rehab because the family could not afford the rehabilitation bill on their own.

Trey, who is quadriplegic, feels he has been stripped of the opportunity to better his life.

"I want to walk, you know, I don't want to be paralyzed for the rest of my life," he

At six-foot-eight, Trey said he misses the ability to play basketball, play drums at his church, pick up his niece, hold a cup to his mouth to drink and hug his mother.

"I'm completely dependent on everybody," Trey said.

He is getting more comfortable being on a ventilator, but must be monitored 24 hours a day in the event the pipes get clogged.

Trey was involved in a shooting incident Feb. 4 with security guard Ricky Stone at the Deerfield Estates Apartment Complex in Tulsa.

Stone approached the vehicle Trey was in along with a 15-year-old female, and

asked for identification. According to reports, Trey backed his vehicle into Stone, causing him to roll onto the trunk and into the back window.

Stone fired three shots at Trey as he drove away, hitting him once and paralyzing him from the neck down.

Trey's sister lives at the apartment complex.

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler declined to charge Stone in the incident citing that the shooting was justified under Oklahoma's self-defense laws.

"I'm the victim. I wasn't doing nothing wrong, and it's changed my life completely," Trey said.

Stone was charged May 29 with possession of a controlled drug, after marijuana was discovered in his vehicle while police investigated the shooting incident. He was charged with misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance, which upon conviction carries a maximum sentence of one-year imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine.

"We think the insurance company should consider that as they continue to deny Trey the healthcare benefits that he so desperately needs," one of Trey's attorneys Damario Solomon-Simmons said.

Solomon-Simmons said that they do not know if Kunzweiler's decision to not prosecute Stone affected the insurance company's decision to decline medical coverage.

"Our main focus is to making sure he can get the health insurance that he needs," Solomon-Simmons said. "We have an appeal we've filed in that particular case... Each day he does not get into rehabilitation, it's really hurting him."

Solomon-Simmons estimates that

the family has spent around \$25,000 for items needed to care for Trey including a handicap accessible van, wheelchair and lift to move him from the wheelchair to his bed.

Family spokesperson Tezlyn Figaro said that a civil suit has been filed against the apartment complex, Stone and the security guard company Smith and Sons Inc. for the shooting incident.

Trey's father, Monroe Bird Jr. is very upset that the insurance company has declined medical coverage.

"I'm really puzzled by the decision of the insurance company and also the DA," Bird said.

He also expressed frustration that Stone was charged with marijuana possession months after the shooting incident.

Kunzweiler said that they were waiting on lab testing on the evidence collected at the scene before they could determine whether or not charges would be filed for the possession.

Bird explained that Trey's mother, Zondra Magness would be providing care at her home in Boley instead of going to re-

"Now she has to turn into a nurse overnight and provide my son with roundthe-clock care," Bird said.

Trey's bedroom will need to be remodeled to care for his needs.

Bird lives in Tulsa, and has been at the hospital when he could get away from work to give Magness breaks in caring for Trey. He plans to visit his son at least once

For more information about the family's cause, visit: www.standformonroe. com. For detailed information about the shooting incident see more coverage in the June 1 'Muscogee Nation News' issue.



NOON - 5:00PM

\$5 Match Play for every Diamond Club Member

Hot Seat Blitz Free Play Drawings

Ten (10) \$10 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes from NOON - 5:00PM. Players CAN win more than once!

Grill Giveaways

Diamond Club players who earn 500 points receive a complimentary portable grill and cooler set.



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Citizen finds success through TANF

Rex celebrates another step toward self-reliance

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In 2013, Shelby Rex became unemployed and needed a way to care for her two children as a single

She sought out the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program for help.

"I didn't have no other assistance coming to me or really didn't know what I was going to do at the time because I had no income coming in to provide for my kids," Rex said.

Rex has completed the sixmonth MCN TANF Subsidized Employment Program.

"The TANF Program is designed to help families achieve self-sufficiency. Employment is a key factor in making that happen," TANF Community Resource Coordinator Tolissa Autry said. "Therefore, we seek to partner with employers offering sustainable employment."

The TANF Subsidized Employment Program reimburses participating employers up to 100 percent of the employee's gross wages for up to six months.

"The TANF program is a hand up in that we create employment opportunities for participants to use their skills and abilities to provide for their families," Autry said.

Through TANF, Rex received interview training and positive reassurance that she could get back on her feet. Rex said that without TANF, it would have taken her a longer time to find a job.

"With their assistance, I was able to receive a job opportunity quicker," she said.

Her children were also able TANF, call: 918-732-7985.

to continue their extracurricular activities like cheerleading, baseball and football while Rex was searching for a way to provide for them.

She started as an administrative assistant at Kialegee Tribal Town in August 2014, and is now the environmental department manager.

Kialegee Tribal Town Tribal Administrator David Cook said that Rex is a very detail oriented employee and hired her because of her work ethic.

"I hold her to a higher standard and I expect her to follow that, and she does," Cook said.

Cook said he does not look down on any worker that comes through TANF and is pleased with the talented workers he has discovered through the program.

"I think the TANF Program is a fantastic opportunity, not just for the tribes, but other businesses within the area," Cook said. "It eliminates the need and the costs regarding to outside ads, outside costs basically with trying to recruit talent."

Rex said that others in similar situations to hers should not be embarrassed to seek out TANF services.

"I would tell them not to give up on themselves so easy... TANF was a really good program," Rex said. "As long as you work hard and are willing to not take advantage of the program, then TANF is always going to be a success to anybody."

Rex is thankful that there was a helping hand extended to give her the strength she needed to get back on her feet.

"We are excited and pleased to receive feedback that the program has improved our participating families' quality of life," Autry said.

For more information about

Scholarship Foundation holds first alumni luncheon



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Dr. Lahoma Schultz was keynote speaker May 22, at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation Program inaugural luncheon.

Event created to foster promotion through recipients, donors

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation Program held their inaugural luncheon May 22, at the Green Country Technology Center in Okmulgee

An alumni society was created from previous scholarship recipients to allow them to meet with one another as well as donors.

"Without the donors, a lot of these scholarships would not be available," MCN SFP Research Specialist Kryste Benge said.

Benge shared the goal for the event.

"We are going to be giving out tips to everyone today so we can increase participation and get more people to help out with our program," Benge said.

Dr. Lahoma Schultz was the

luncheon.

"I want to welcome the students for the alumni society," Schultz said. "I want to encourage and congratulate them on a job well done with these scholarships."

Schultz also spoke about how the recipients are the charter members of the alumni society.

"Everyone here is very important to the foundation," Schultz said. "They are going to play a big role so I want to give them pointers and tips on how to make the foundation successful."

Benge feels that the men and women who were awarded scholarships show the success of the program. To date, Benge says there have been over 40 citizens who were awarded scholarships.

"I feel great about our program," Benge said. "We are going to continue to grow and get more scholarships developed and awarded."

For more information about keynote speaker for the alumni the program call: 918-732-7754.





City of Okmulgee donates to 2015 MCN Festival



OKMULGEE, Okla. — City of Okmulgee Mayor Steven Baldridge presented a \$15,000 donation from the city to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for the 2015 MCN Creek Festival. This is the second year that the city has made a donation to the tribe.

"We are so excited to be a partner to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Baldridge said. "They are a vital part of our community and the Festival is a great event for family and friends and it is an exciting time for this summer."

Tiger spoke how joint ventures such as this can be mutually beneficial.

"Anytime you have a chance to join partnerships and promote the capitol city in which your tribe is based out of, it is great." Tiger said. "It is a win-win for everybody involved."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

Millions of Oklahoma citizens disenfranchised

Biggest circus I've seen since Barnum and Bailey

Oklahoma House District 13 State Rep. Jerry McPeak/ Muscogee (Creek) citizen

Capitol is to attempt to find to do. Tulsa and Oklahoma City can't hear what you say." keep getting larger and larger portions of the pie, and the here where we live is a fun, rural areas "suck the hind teat." inexpensive way to spend an (I wouldn't write that for Tulsa afternoon or weekend. Unlike or Oklahoma City but you folks the rich folks who build fancy understand that).

not asked what they thought million. of the new state budget – but were rather "reported to." When some parks, privatized others, I pointed that out to Rep. Earl has raised fees. These are the Sears, budget negotiator for the same state parks and lakes you House, he stated on the House paid taxes to build. Just another Floor, "I didn't call a doctor example of average income and from Harvard or an economist common folks paying for the from OU." That answer is an tax cut to rich folks and tax indication of the aloof and credits to big business. snobby approach to this budget.

trade," make deals? Because if 'Supreme Court Justices.' you do, watching the House and Senate operate would be a thrill. in the bill about school children Unfortunately, too often, some and testing. Representatives and Senators trade their moral compass for subject to you? Me neither! But political favors or potential guess what: the chairman of campaign donations. The last the committee said those were few days of session outshine a the same subject and could, circus for the goings-on.

author admits certifies that the rule that allowed such, the State of Oklahoma cannot the response was "because the NOT sell water for a profit, after chairman said so." failing yesterday, will get new The whole week has been like life today and will pass. Why is this. I have seen more anger up that so important?

there is a budget deficit - NOT count if those in charge don't oil and gas prices. The State of want them to count. What a Oklahoma sells oil and gas for great example for the people!

water that comes from wells at disregarded year after year with a state prison facility? I'm not no consequences. The House talking about price gouging and Senate didn't do their job but a reasonable price with but suffer no consequences. funds going to the prison Leaders say they support system. By the way, most prison education, but their votes do workers haven't had a pay raise not convey that. in years and they are grossly understaffed.

Sears and Senator Clark Jolley a good thing, because I couldn't cut funding to county roads really tolerate another week of and bridges by \$72 million the circus. and healthcare for the elderly I am proud to serve House and poor by \$47 million. That District 13 but frustrated by shortage shuts down another the process. So let's get our state \$65 million of federal matching straightened out. Worse things funds.

lose over \$110 million and saying a lot!

the federal government sends Oklahoma tax dollars to another state. Aren't we smart?

Following the same line of thought: While Sears and others who sit near him talk about their support of veterans, mental healthcare facilities are The way I survive at the shut down AND in the last two years, state funds to veterans humor in the "goings on." But has been cut by \$5.1 million. that is getting harder and harder "What you do speaks so loud I

Going to the lake around lake homes and use it as a Representatives and senators getaway, for us, we can do who represent over half the something fun without a cost. population in Oklahoma were Tourism's budget was cut \$8.5

The state has already closed

Circus, circus, circus! There Do any of you like to "horse is a piece of legislation titled

There is a section of language

Do those seem like the same therefore, be combined in the This morning a bill that the same bill. When asked to show

here before, but never so little Poor management is why respect for the rules. Rules don't

State law: fund education by Then why can we not sell April 1. Actuality: completely

In summary: I am home with the folks I like and respect. We Also, the budget crafted by adjourned a week early, and it's

are happening in Oklahoma Old folks and sick people than nationally...and that is

MIC TREASURER ELEC-TION SET FOR JUNE 18

MORRIS, Okla. — An election for the Morris Indian Community vacant treasurer board position is set for 6 p.m., June 18 at the MIC building, 17165 Hwy 62, Morris OK.

All community members are invited to come and vote. Those interested in being on the ballot may contact Gena Niedo at: 918-752-9466 or Linda Tenequer at: 918-752-8097.

BENEFIT POWWOW SET FOR JUNE 20

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The fourth annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powow is set for June 20 at the Bacone College student life center, 2414 E. Shawneee Bypass in Musk-

All drums, royalties and dancers are invited.

For event information call: 918-682-2586. For vendor information call: 918-616-4577.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR JUNE 20

WETUMKA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Nehar and Sallie Yahola has been set for June 20 at Salt Creek United Methodist Church starting at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome and please bring a potluck dish for lunch.

CMCA GATHERING SET FOR AUG. 1

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an annual gathering for Aug. 1 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia, Ave, Riverside CA, 92503.

For more information contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554 or jeannars@yahoo.com.

MCN Southern Regional schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of June

June 16, 23, 30 Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

June 24 Social Services/Employment and Training

June 29 MCN Closed

Closed

For more information call: 405-452-1100.

Festival Bass Classic

MCN T&R/Media Release

EUFAULA, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Bass Classic has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 18 at Lake Eufaula.

"Due to flooding concerns, we're rescheduling the bass tournament for the safety of our participants," MCN Tourism and Recreation Director William Lowe said.

Teams will not need to reregister for the new date. New participants can register up to 7 p.m. on July 18.

"We are excited and hope to have even more anglers for the new date," Lowe said.

The one-day tournament features two-angler teams competing for the chance to win the \$5,000 grand prize. The cost to enter is \$200 per boat/team.

Each team will receive two Wohali fishing rods.

Additional prizes will be awarded.

Individuals may register from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, July 17 at the South Point Pavilion in Eufaula Cove.

For additional rules and more information about the 2015 MCN Festival Bass Classic or other Festival events, visit www.creekfestival.com or call: 918-732-7992.

FAMILY REUNION SET **FOR JULY 4**

EUFAULA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Rev. William McCombs (1844-1929) is set for July 4 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Eufaula Community Center.

Please bring old photos, family stories and a pot-luck dish to share at the noon luncheon.

MNN DEADLINES

July 1 — June 22

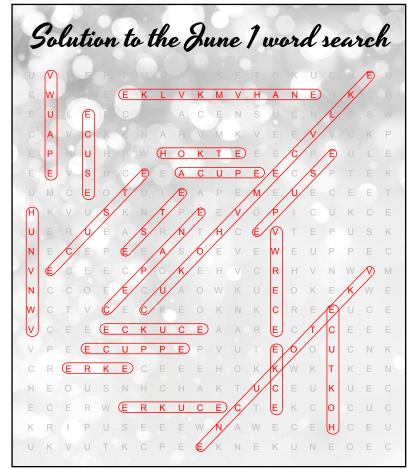
July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 — July 24 Aug. 15 — Aug. 7

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8





ANN HARDMAN OBIT

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Ann Hardman, the daughter of Caesar and Peggie King was born Sept. 26, 1932 in Okmulgee. She departed this life May 28, 2015 in Tahlequah at the age of 82 years, eight months and two

Ann always said, 'education is the answer.' She was admitted to Northeastern State University in September 1969 and graduated May 1972 with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education.

She pursued higher education, earning a master's in counseling May 1988. Ann was employed through Tahlequah Public Schools as an art teacher for six years at Cherokee Elementary School.

She retired from counselor of Porter Public School in 1995. Ann was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served from 1953 to her honorable discharge in 1956.

Ann was an artist, enjoyed sewing, gardening and loved animals of all kinds. Intelligent, thoughtful, caring and wise beyond her years, Ann touched many lives and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Ann was preceded in death

by her: husband, SMSGT William Cecil Hardman; son, William Cecil Hardman; daughter, Cecilia Hardman Scott; brother, Jackson King; sisters, Helen Mc-Cabe and Beulah Simms and grandchildren, Michael Wayne Scott and Marissa Ann Hard-

She is survived by a loving family, her: son, David Hardman and Ellen Wakamatsu of Moodys, Carol Bartlett and husband Robert of Norman, Cynthia Hardman, Elizabeth Hardman of Tahlequah, Patricia Hardman of Norman; two very dear and special cousins, Buddy and Carol Mason of Sand Springs, seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and nieces, a nephew, friends, and other relatives also survive her.

Graveside services for Ann Hardman will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, June 27, 2015 in the Berryhill Cemetery, Okmulgee, OK. A luncheon will precede services 12:00-1:30 p.m.





A Myskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant winners announced

Barnett, Gouge to crowned as new tribal royalty

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Shannon Barnett was crowned Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation and citizen Madeline Gouge was crowned Jr. Miss June 6 during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

The purpose of the pageant is to provide an educational scholarship opportunity to young Muscogee (Creek) women and help develop public speaking skills, self-confidence and cultural knowledge of Muscogee (Creek) history, customs and traditions.

"The pageant committee prides themselves on offering one of the highest scholarships given in a tribal scholarship pageant in the state," MCN Pageant Committee Secretary Nancy Deere-Turney said. "Along with many gifts from the committee and Nation, traveling opportunities and scholarship, the Miss and Jr. Miss pageant builds character and leadership skills."



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Shannon Barnett was crowned Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation (center, right) and citizen Madeline Gouge was crowned Jr. Miss (center, left) June 6 during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla. Also pictured is 2014 Miss MCN, Brittany Hill (right) and 2014 Jr. Miss, River Watson (left).

Eight contestants' ages 17-24 competed for the title of Miss MCN, while five contestants ages 14-17 competed for Jr. Miss.

Each contestant had to write an essay, give a personal interview with the judges, prepare a selfintroduction, wear traditional dress, give a traditional presentation and answer an impromptu question.

Barnett played her favorite Muscogee (Creek) hymn on a self-made flute for her traditional

Gouge painted a portrait while a song written by her father

After a long day of competition the winners were finally announced.

"I feel very honored to have the opportunity to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and our people," Barnett said.

MCN royalty serve as representatives of the Nation and positive role models for Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

"Being Jr. Miss, I want to show who we are and how we do the best in all we do," Gouge said.

To schedule an appearance contact the MCN Pageant Committee Head Chaperone LuAnn Bear at: 918-758-8106.

MCN calls for opposition to Poarch gaming compact



Shutterstock & Amanda Rutland/MNN

Tiger urges Alabama governor to deny agreement with PBCI

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger sent a letter dated June 2, to Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley opposing a proposed gaming compact between with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the state.

PBCI claims to be descendants of the Muscogee (Creek) Confederacy that were not forcibly relocated by the U.S. government to modern day Oklahoma under the Indian Removal Act signed in 1830.

According to the 'Montgomery Advisor, within the last few months, PBCI has agreed to give \$250 million to the State of Alabama to close the state's 2016 budget deficit in exchange for exclusive gaming

PBCI acquired Hickory Ground with the approval

Compact - 5

We counted a while ago and all of them joined in. It's just an exchange of words to each other and they can understand."

> — Camp instructor Vicky Tate

> > Gary Fife/MNN

Mvksoke Language Preservation **Program Immersion Camp students** weave baskets June 4 under the watchful eye of instructor Vicky



Immersion camp teaches traditions to youth

Week-long opportunity offered by MCN program

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

HULBERT, Okla. — Many spend a portion of their summer in some kind of camp.

For a dozen seventh through Preservation Program Immer- they'll carry it on," Deere said.

sion Camp June 1-5 at Sequoyah State Park Lodge. The camp fea- the group worked to the adtured cultural instruction on: vantage of the language staff, language, music, arts, games, enabling them to reach more beadwork and traditional val- students individually.

tain these skills.

"As most people know, our 12th-grade Muscogee (Creek) language is dying out and I al- tle to no knowledge of the lanstudents, this time was spent ways say, even if we only have guage, the idea is to give them a learning about their culture a handful that's willing to learn, sample and keep their attention. through the Myskoke Language then, we'll teach them and hope

Deere said the small size of

The language is integrated MLPP Manager Chumona into each lesson by using cor-Oklahoma school children will Deere hoped to kindle the stu- rect Mvskoke terms for items dent's interest to help them re- or actions, rather than teaching through lectures and tests.

Since most students have lit-

Camp - 3

One Fire Sports Bar opens to public

Casino adds new entertainment amenity to Okmulgee

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — One Fire Casino celebrated the opening of the One Fire Sports Bar June 19, located within the casino in Okmulgee.

"There's really not the amenity in Okmulgee besides one small restaurant downtown and so we wanted add another level for our players and so they can have a nice, fun, safe, responsible atmosphere to come in and enjoy themselves and also enjoy the games too," One Fire Casino General Manager Travis Thompson said.

Thompson said he hopes the sports bar will become another draw for casino patrons.

"With us being right here on 75, obviously we have a major responsibility to make sure everybody is safe. We feel like that it is going to draw traffic in for people to explore and then just maybe relax for a little bit," Thompson said.

MCN Casinos Chief Opera-

tions Officer Andy Langston said that he hopes that casino patrons enjoy the sports bar as well as the casino and in turn increase revenue for the tribe.

"It took us three years to get here and I think it's going to be a very good success," Langston said. "It's just kind of a success story to see something from beginning to end."

I-5 based out of Seattle completed the sports bar project, and also worked on other Muscogee (Creek) Nation casino remodels in Okmulgee, Muskogee and Duck Creek.

"Just the interior of this building, it's worth coming to see. So, if you haven't been in, it's a great place to come and see. There's a lot of stone. There's a lot of tribal symbolism around the facility and we like to share in our heritage as much as we possibly can," Thompson said.

The sports bar was funded from gaming revenue.

For more information about One Fire Casino and One Fire Sports Bar, visit: www.onefirecasino.com, or call: 918-756-

Football camp helps teach fundamentals, discipline



Spirit of Oklahoma participants huddle together after drills June 5 at the Wetumka High School football field in Wetumka, Okla.

Spirit of Oklahoma returns to MCN

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Spirit of Oklahoma Football Camp returned to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation June 5-6, at Wetumka High School football field in Wetumka.

This is the fifth year that former University of Oklahoma quarterback Jamelle Holieway brought his camp along with former pro and college players back to the MCN jurisdiction for the two-day event

"It is always great to come back to Creek Nation and Wetumka," Holieway said. "Everyone here treats us great. We always like it here."

Holieway wanted to use this event as a way to teach the children the proper fundamentals of football.

"We want to show them the right way of having the proper footwork and discipline for when they play this great game," Holieway said. "These coaches are here to show them the proper technique and right way of doing it."

The football camp was set for the youth ages 12 and under for the session on Friday and 13 and up for the camp on Saturday. The camp was free of charge to all participants.

Holieway said it does not matter whether the youth are from rural areas.

He knows they can push themselves to be successful regardless of where they are from.

"Being from a rural area does not matter at all," Holieway said. "These kids can play. If they

work hard and listen to what the coaches say while they are here, it will help them improve."

Holieway enjoys seeing new children at his camp and is also happy about the youth who return.

"We have a kid who has been coming to camp for a couple of years," Holieway said. "Last year, his family moved to Arkansas but they still made the effort to come back to our camp. If they made the effort to come back we as the coaches need to keep pushing them to being their best."

Former OU football player Keith Sparks also returned to help out.

Every year he sees potential in the children.

"These kids get excited knowing the same drills they are doing now are the ones we used growing up and while we were in college," Sparks said. "Seeing the excitement in them when they are out here makes everything worth it."

Sparks feels that he sees the youth getting better and hopes they will keep passing this knowledge on to the next generation.

"This is what it is for," Sparks said. "We want to teach and instill in these kids the focus, drive, intensity and determination. Then when it is time for them to teach, they can pass on this knowledge that they learned from us."

MCN candidate profiles to be taken at filing

SHAKE THE VOTE

Prospective, incumbent officials asked to be photo, bio ready

Mvskoke Media/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will take candidate profile information and photos on-site during the filing period July 20-22 from 9 a.m.

- 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. for the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation officer elections.

M N staff will be on-hand during registration at

the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their 100 total word limit bios, which will

Bios should include, as available, candidates': full name, district and seat they are run-

run in the MNN Aug. 15 edi-

ning for, clan, tribal town, ceremonial ground and/or church, education/experience and campaign platform.

No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits

> cannot be used for candidates' campaign material.

Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.

The profile submission period has been narrowed to quickly inform Muscogee (Creek) citizens ahead of the upcoming Myskoke Media candidate forum, to be announced and absentee ballot deadlines.

For more information contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or email: scosper@mcn-nsn.gov.

Program opens store to help those in need



Shane Holuby/Intern

RiP lends a helping hand

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program does its part to help ex-offenders adjust to civilian life and has found yet another way to help those in need.

MCN RiP Manager Tony Fish said there have been requests from citizens for furniture, household items and clothing.

"It was not only citizens asking about that," Fish said. "Other people were asking that too and if you are not a client of ours, then we cannot help."

Fish and other RiP employees came up with a way to have those items donated, refurbished and given to those in need.

MCN first lady Frances Tiger asked Fish if his program accepted donations. He said that they did and that started the ball rolling on a store to help provide them to the public.

"This was placed heavy on my heart, like a burden," Fish said. "I felt we needed to get something done." The donated items are housed,

stored and distributed in Henry-

"We had to buy the clothes rack but everything else in the store is donated," Fish said.

Fish said Tiger was the first person to donate to the new store.

"She had clothes and other

"We got those ready and on the shelves immediately."

items to give to us," Fish said.

Fish understands that things like natural disasters and job loss can happen to anyone. "We want to help if such an

event occurs that it out of their hands," Fish said. The store is open to anyone in need by appointment only and

those seeking help may remain anonymous. "This is for anyone that needs

a helping hand," Fish said. "This store is here to help you get you back on your feet." RIP Youth Specialist Keith

Green said that the program accepts donations of clothing, household items and furniture.

"Those are some of the things that we need," Green said. "What we need is a lot of are hangers for the clothes."

For more information about RiP and the store, including how to receive assistance or donate call: 918-652-2676.

MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE

gfife@mcn-nsn.gov DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov



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CAMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"What we're doing is giving them a variety of learning," Deere said. "Whether it's speaking or even through the crafts, we teach them the names of the objects and those kinds of things, because youth get bored pretty easy if you just go strictly language."

Camp instructor Vicky Tate taught arts and crafts.

"They know how to say 'basket,' they know how to say 'pottery' in Creek and they use it often," Tate said. "We counted a while ago and all of them joined in. It's just an exchange of words to each other and they can understand."

For Morris student Sarah Elizabeth Hawkins, the camp offered an opportunity for her to learn about traditional Mvskoke ways with support from her mother.

"Well, I didn't really get to learn my language growing up," Hawkins said. "My momma heard about it in the newspaper and she decided that we should come and at least learn a little bit of the language and a bit of our culture as well."

That preservation of Mvs-koke culture is important to her.

"Our culture is disappearing and we're the next generation that they need to pass it down to," Hawkins said. "Otherwise, we're going to lose our language and culture, like some of the other Indians have lost their language and we won't be recognized as Indians."

Jay Fife, from Beggs, was attending the camp to build on his family's Mvskoke teach-

ings.

"Just to know my language. I mean, I already know some but it's good to talk with the mvhayvs (teachers). They know it and then, we learn off of each other," Fife said.

Echoing his fellow students, he said these kind of projects put preservation into practice.

"We're keeping it alive, we keeping this tradition alive," Fife said. "That's why it's so important because if we don't learn it, who's going to learn it for us? It starts with us, so that's why we need to learn it."

MLPP Language Specialist Minnie Proctor felt the learning opportunity was a "privilege."

"We say we're trying to preserve our language and the only way I know we can do that, is those that volunteer and want to come out and learn," Proctor said. "Because we're not pressuring anybody, but it's something I feel like you're privileged right now to have a place to go, to get together, to make new friends share our culture and our traditions."

Chitto Mekko Harjo Frye of Henryetta said the camp helped him to do his part to continue Myskoke language, traditions and more.

"Like manners, love, respect and just talking to elders," Harjo said.

He came to the camp with a limited knowledge of the language, but said the time spent there made a difference.

"Not really, but since these last four days, I got better at it," Harjo said.

Apprenticeship Program grows through projects, participants



Maranda Coon/In

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Department Apprenticeship Program under the direction of Tribal Construction Services nears completion on a home June 8 in Okmulgee, Okla.

Citizens receive on the job training

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In the last six months, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Department Apprenticeship Program has grown both in the number of participants and projects.

The Apprenticeship Program offers training in construction, plumbing and HVAC specialties.

ET Career Specialist Kimberly Martel said the four-year apprenticeship program now has 15 participants and ET is working to expand opportunities by partnering with other tribal departments.

ET has partnered with other MCN departments consisting of Tribal Construction Services, Housing, Tribal Driveways, Federal Roads, Force Account and Family Violence Prevention.

Martel said by incorporating other departments, ET wanted

to increase the variety of life skills available for program participants.

"Family Violence [Prevention] is coming and doing some trainings over 'My Body, My Life' and 'Real Men' curriculum with our apprenticeship clients

and the reason we have them involved is so we can

raise awareness to about them the

fects
of domestic
violence," Martel
said. "The main mission is to help prohibit them
from becoming a victim or even

also being one of the people that are perpetrating on others." Tribal Construction Services Construction Engineer James Allred said TCS has grown since

they started taking apprentices.
"In the last year, since we have

incorporated the apprentices, we have also hired another CAD (computer aided drafting) tech operator, CAD tech/project manager," Allred said. "We have also added a construction supervisor, who helps the supervisors the apprentices and ... we have a licensed surveyor that started to work in our department."

With the increase in staff, TCS has a number of projects lined up. Some of these include: a roundhouse gazebo at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex to be finished before the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, completion of houses for the Housing Department and a retaining wall for the College of the Muscogee Nation.

The Apprenticeship Program is seeking approval from the MCN National Council to set up a revolving fund in order to pay the apprentices with money from projects and invest in future projects.

Rep. Dode Barnett is sponsoring legislation titled NCA 15-131 for the revolving account, but the Council has not yet voted on it.

Allred said taking on paid projects increases the self-sufficiency of the program and thus they would not have to rely on the Council for funding.

Allred hopes with the growth rate of the program and by eliminating the need for continuous funding from Council, eventually TCS will be a full-fledged in house construction company.

For more information about the Apprenticeship Program, contact ET Intake Specialist Donnita Severs at: 918-732-7777



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) Healthy Research Participants Needed



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). \$200 compensation (\$100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective
Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that
contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to
developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals
at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications

 *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophysor on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Oklahoma state representative joins shooting incident conversation





Courtesy photos

Oklahoma State Rep. Mike Shelton (left) issued a statement June 2 requesting that the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt investigate the shooting incident involving Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III and security guard Ricky Stone.

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler (right) replied to this statement.

Shelton requests OSBI involvement, Tulsa County DA responds

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Oklahoma State Rep. Mike Shelton issued a statement June 2 requesting that Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation investigate the shooting incident involving Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III and security guard Ricky Stone.

The incident took place Feb. 4 at the Deerfield Estates Apartment Complex in Tulsa.

Stone approached the vehicle Bird was in along with a 15-year-old female, and asked for identification. According to reports, Trey backed his vehicle into Stone, causing him to roll onto the trunk and into the back window.

Stone fired three shots at Bird as he drove away, hitting him once and paralyzing him from the neck down. Bird's sister lives at

the apartment complex.
Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler declined to charge Stone in the incident citing that the shooting was justified under

Oklahoma's self-defense laws. Stone was charged May 29 with possession of a controlled drug, after marijuana was discovered in his vehicle while police investigated the shooting incident.

Kunzweiler said that the delay was due to waiting on the lab results.

"It has taken more than three months just to charge him with misdemeanor possession," Shelton said. "It seems that not only is the investigation being slow played, but it also appears the assailant has been undercharged, as well. There is a connection here between the employer and the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department that needs to be vetted by an independent investigation."

Shelton, who represents the Oklahoma City area, said that Smith and Sons Inc., the security firm hired by the apartment complex, is owned by Benji Smith, a Tulsa County Reserve Deputy.

Shelton believes that there is a conflict of interest with the current entities' investigation and an outside investigation should be sought.

tigation should be sought. TCSD has been under scrutiny in recent months that began in April when 73-year-old Volunteer Reserve Deputy Robert Bates shot and killed suspect Eric Harris during a sting operation instead of using his Taser.

OSBI is currently investigating TCSD for possible misconduct but did not detail specifics of the investigation. The 'Tulsa World' previously reported allegations of special treatment, harassment and intimidation of employees at TCSD.

Shelton said that in a post on Stone's Facebook account, Stone referred to his job as working for a "private police force." The post has since been removed.

"Because of the slow pace of this investigation, Ricky Stone has been able to move to Texas where he has escaped scrutiny," Shelton said. "Monroe Bird is a good, young man without a violent past, and now he has a difficult future ahead of him because some wannabe cop took his job way to seriously.

"Now the question that needs to be answered is, 'was Ricky Stone not charged that night and has this investigation been delayed because of his connections to the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department?' We cannot allow this to go unchecked by an independent investigation."

Kunzweiler said that the police investigation did not involve TCSD.

"This investigation was conducted by the Tulsa Police Department, not the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department... a totally separate law enforcement entity," Kunzweiler said. "To my knowledge there was no interference by anybody through the sheriff's office or any concerns about the sheriff's office having involvement in the case."

Kunzweiler referred back to his interview that appeared on KFAQ 1170 AM.

"With all do respect to Rep. Shelton, I would be more than willing to recommend that he listen to the podcast involving my interview on the Pat Campbell Show with KFAQ," Kunzweiler said. "And I think once he listens to those podcasts perhaps he might be a little more educated on the facts of the case."

Bird family spokesperson Tezlyn Figaro said that the family had no comment at this time.

For detailed information about the shooting incident, read 'Muscogee Nation News' coverage on page one of the June 1 issue at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/MNN/pdf/2015/20150601.pdf.





Office of Justice Programs visits MCN District Court



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Okmulgee, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Greg Bigler spoke to representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs June 3 in the MCN District Court Room at the Mound building in Okmulgee.

The visitors oversee \$4 million in grants that provide services to judicial systems, victims, safety, state, federal and tribal court systems.

OJP wanted to see firsthand the assistance their programs provide in Indian Country.

COMPACT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from the U.S. government in the

Hickory Ground is a unique Myskoke pre-Removal location because it was the capital of the confederacy, a ceremonial ground and a burial site. The site is located near present day Wetumpka, Ala.

In a proposal to the Alabama Historical Commission Historic Preservation Discretionary Fund Grant in Aid Program dated Feb. 12, 1980, it was stated, "Acquisition of the property is principally a protection measure. Acquisition will prevent development on the property."

After the land was secured, PBCI erected a casino on the location.

"We urge you to reject ANY gaming agreement that would lend support to the Poarch Band's illegal casino development at Wetumpka. Please do not allow the State of Alabama to be complicit in the desecration of our ancestor's resting place and the lands we hold sacred," Tiger wrote.

On Dec. 12, 2012, MCN filed a suit against PBCI, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Auburn University and others in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama regarding the tribe's development of a casino on the original Hickory Ground site.

Brendan Ludwick, legal counsel for MCN in the Hickory Ground case said the lawsuit was filed on the grounds that PBCI violated the National Historic Preservation Act, the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

"The Poarch Band acquired Hickory Ground under the false pretense that they would preserve the historic property and undisturbed Muscogee burials located there.

"They violated their preservation promises by excavating the historic ceremonial ground and exhuming approximately 57 sets of human remains and funerary objects to build a casino.

"The Poarch Band failed to consult with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or obtain consent from Hickory Ground Tribal Town as required by federal law," Ludwick said.

MCN assisted PBCI in obtaining federal recognition in 1984.

"There were some parameters also involved in having that support for them and one of them was to make sure we were involved in anything having to do with cultural and traditional and sacred sites," Tiger said.

Tiger went on to say MCN has not been contacted in a timely manner about cultural or traditional matters and MCN's opposition to PBCI actions are not about economic development.

"We don't profit from any-

thing the Poarch Band does, nor would we want to take any money from them," Tiger said. "We are not against gaming in Alabama. That is not it. What we are against is people profiting from the desecration of our forefathers that were left in Alabama in their homelands and I don't think that is right."

Tiger said he has heard no response from Gov. Bentley. The 'Muscogee Nation News reached out to Bentley's office June 16 at 12 p.m. with no success as of press time.

In a June 12 'Associated Press' article, PBCI Government Relations Advisor Robert McGhee stated, "It is unfortunate that the Muscogee Nation continues to wage a misinformation campaign against our tribe and is now trying to bring another government into what is an inter-tribal dispute...

"The Muscogee Nation lives in Oklahoma. The property in Wetumpka belongs to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and we make decisions regarding it that are in the best interest of our people."

Ludwick said PBCI is seeking dismissal of the lawsuit, "on various grounds including the challenges to the federal court's jurisdiction."

MNN reached out to PBCI the morning of June 12 and again the afternoon of June 13 for a statement about the letter and has received no comment as of press time.

PBCI claims to be descendants of the Muscogee (Creek) Confederacy that were not forcibly relocated by the U.S. government to modern day Oklahoma under the Indian Removal Act signed in 1830.

- PBCI acquired Hickory Ground with the approval from the U.S. government in the '80s.
- After the land was secured, PBCI erected a casino on the location.
- MCN assisted PBCI in obtaining federal recognition in 1984.

MCN receives \$395,278 grant for community SANE program

Funding to improve service area for collecting sexual violence case evidence

MCN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) and MCN Department of Health (MCNDH) were awarded a \$395,278 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to implement a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program for the community.

Currently, the SANE Programs near the MCN jurisdiction are located in Tulsa and Ada. Local law enforcement agencies contributed letters of support for the grant application because of the current need for the SANE Program in the area.

"For us to be able to have them here is just going to be just wonderful for our community," FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said. "It sends a really strong message about the work that we're doing to try to combat domestic and sexual violence. The work that we're doing is benefitting our people and everyone in the community."

FVPP and the MCN SANE Program are unique in that they serve the general community and not just Native Americans.

"We are very excited to begin development of a new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program that is patient-centered and culturally sensitive to adequately meet the needs of our communities,"

MCNDH Chief Nursing Officer Annette James said. "Registered Nurses (RNs) who have been highly trained as a SANE will provide basic forensic examinations for survivors of sexual assault. The SANE's will work collaboratively with physicians, law enforcement, prosecutors and victim advocacy agencies to ensure the needs of victims are addressed."

Once the VOCA grant funds are released by the State of Oklahoma, FVPP estimates that they will begin developing and training for the program in August for implementation a few months later.

"We are establishing a brand new program from the ground up," Partridge said. "We're in an amazing place to make all of that happen and really implement a wonderful program that's going to have an amazing impact in our communities and then also the ability to serve and respond to those that have been impacted by sexual violence."

VOCA was signed into law Oct. 12, 1984 by President Ronald Reagan and created a fund, which is financed through fines and assessments on criminals at the federal level instead of tax dollars.

The mission of MCN FVPP is to enhance safety, justice and healing for individuals, families and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

FVPP provides advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as well as community education and awareness.



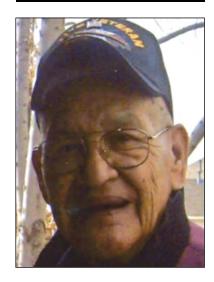


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JIMMY ALEXANDER



GLENPOOL, Okla. — James (Jimmy) Alexander, 76, passed away Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at his Glenpool residence surrounded by his loving family members.

Jimmy was born Dec. 21, 1938 in Pawnee to William and Mary (Harjo) Alexander. He graduated from Webster High School. He attended St. Gregory's College. Jimmy served his country in the U.S. Army. He was a devoted minister for years serving many communities and families.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, William and Mary Alexander; brother, Charles Alexander and children, Jimmy Jr. and LeAnn Alexander and La Donna Thompson.

Jimmy is survived by his: wife, Lorena Alexander; children, Tony Alexander and his wife, Tricia of Glenpool, Jimmi Carol (Sissy) Dunn of Sapulpa, Rick Alexander of Glenpool, Marlin Thompson and companion Norma (Shorty) Taryole of Bristow, Faron Thompson of Pawnee, Jake Thompson and his wife Randi of Tulsa; siblings, Robert Alexander of Commerce, E J Alexander of Pawnee, Mary Sue (Alexander) Peak of Oakhurst, 23 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and other family members, friends and acquaintances.

Funeral services were March 6 at Tulsa Hills Baptist Church with pastor Tim Lowe and Paul Fixico officiating. Interment followed at North Indian Cemetery in Pawnee. Arrangements were entrusted to Daniel C. Schaudt of Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service and Cremation Care. Family and friends may view the obituary and send condolences to the family online at www. schaudtfuneralservice.com.

To send flowers or a remembrance gift to the family of Jimmy Alexander please visit our tribute store.

The family of Jim Alexander would like to thank the 17 ministers who honored him at his wake service, to Tim Lowe and Paul Fixico for officiating the

Thanks to the deacons who worked the services for an outstanding job. Myto, Jimmy would have been so proud!

A special thanks to Jerry and Al Wilson for use of their church. Thanks to all who led and sang English and our Creek hymn, sent flowers, food, prayers, the cooks and showed our family support.

Dad will be missed by all for his sense of humor, jokes and smiles. He will be especially missed for his Creek singing. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandpa, uncle, brother and friend. We feel comfort in knowing he is with his Lord and savior and we will see each other again.

—Mvto, Alexander family

Special thanks to Redeena Butler

OBITUARIES

MELINDA ARNEECHER



HENRYETTA, Okla. — Melinda Ann Arneecher, a long-time resident of Henryetta, passed away on Sunday, June 14, 2015 in Henryetta at the age of 35. Melinda was born Dec. 31, 1979 in Tulsa. She grew up in Henryetta and attended Henryetta Public Schools, graduating from Henryetta High School.

Following high school, Melinda attended college at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah. Melinda loved her four children deeply and loved spending time with all her family. She will truly be missed by her family and the many people who knew and loved her.

Melinda is preceded in death by her mother, Polly Wright.

She is survived by her: daughters, Kasey Leach of Henryetta and Abigail Lane of Dewar; sons, Derrick Leach of Henryetta and Teddy Nathaniel Lane of Dewar; sister, Shannon Broncho of Okemah; a special cousin, Loretta Sumka of Henryetta; aunt, Melinda Sumka as well as numerous other cousins, other extended family and many good friends

Viewing for Melinda was held June 18 at Integrity Funeral Service in Henryetta. A funeral service for Melinda was held June 19 at the Hickory Ground #1 Church with Rev. Mitchell Taylor officiating. Burial followed the service immediately at the Sumka Family Cemetery, south of Henryetta under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

Pallbearers were: Lucas Sumka, Jeff Sumka, Jerrod Grayson, John Grayson III, Charles Broncho and Harjo Chee.

Honorary pallbearers were: Gary Sumka and Teddy Lane.

SHIRLEY BERRYHILL

WETUMKA, Okla. — Shirley Ann Berryhill was born March 30, 1946 in Wetumka to Charlie and Annie (Marshall) Tiger and passed from this life June 2, 2015 at her home in Wetumka at the age of 69.

Shirley was raised in the Wetumka area and attended Wetumka School. She married Chubby Berryhill Feb. 26, 1965 and they made Wetumka and Hughes County their lifelong home.

She worked for the Big Yank sewing factory in Wewoka before accepting a position as a cook for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Nutrition Center in Wetumka. She loved her job and worked there until about two years ago when failing health forced her retirement.

Shirley loved to cook, watch TV game shows and work word search puzzles. Her family meant everything to her, especially her husband, children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her: parents; sisters, Salina Yargee and Susie Lindsey; brothers, Homer Tiger and John Scott and a grandson, Matthew Berryhill.

Survivors include: her husband, Chubby Riley Berryhill of the home; children, Shelia Williams and husband, David and Eugene Berryhill and wife, Franchette, all of Wetumka as well as Angela Berryhill and Frank Lewis of Okemah; brother, James Tiger and wife, Barbara of Wetumka; sisters, Ruby Richburg and husband, David of Sulphur and Betty Scott of Okemah; 22 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, along with several nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Services were at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Woody Fields and Rev. Fred Lindsey officiating.

Pallbearers were: Todd Pringle, David Williams, David M. McGirt, Tommy Wells, Darrick Deer, Scott Pringle, Corbet Witham, Travis Scott and Frankie Lewis.

Honorary Pallbears were: her grandsons, Shawn Remis, Jon Berryhill, Coleman Holata, Jordon Berryhill, Shevon Berryhill, Nick Coody, Kameron Berryhill, Austin Williams and Michael Williams.

Interment will be in the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church Cemetery under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home of Wetumka.

LEE FREEMAN



OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lee R. Freeman, a resident of Overland Park, left this world peacefully on Sunday, May 3 at the age of 65 with his family at his side. He was born March 31, 1950 in Okmulgee, Okla., to Robert and Hepsey Berryhill Freeman.

He was the grandson of Harrison and Celia Freeman Berryhill, great-grandson of John Freeman and Hettie Checote, great-great-grandson of Chief Samuel Checote and four times great-grandson of William (Red Eagle) Weatherford. He was a member of the Hvlpvtvlke, (Alligator Clan) of Koweta Tribal Town.

Lee graduated from Shawnee Mission West High School of Overland Park in 1968.

In 1970 he joined the U.S. Navy, proudly serving four years aboard the nuclear attack submarine, USS Hawkbill 666 as a Machinists Mate, Petty Officer 3rd Class.

In 1972, he was deployed on the USS Hawkbill to the South China Sea, for this deployment he received the Vietnam Service Medal.

He was also awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal during his service. After being honorably discharged, he married Beve Brawner in 1975. They have three children Nathaniel Lee,

Lee earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Kansas (KU) in Lawrence.

Rachel and Brandon Freeman.

He enjoyed sports and running. His passions included anything KU, coaching his children's sports teams, his dogs, woodworking and auto mechanics.

He retired February 2015 after 30 years with the U.S. Postal Service when he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis.

He is preceded in death by his: parents and brothers, Robin and Robert.

He leaves behind his: wife, Beve of 40 years; three children and grandson, Kurt; brothers, Douglas, Vernon, Randall and Max Freeman; sisters, Freida Stober, Anita Freeman, Odette Freeman, Carla Hoehn, Abby Wasley and Shannon Freeman, as well as a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services were held May 9 at Porter Funeral Home, in Lenexa.

ELSIE BUTLER



WETUMKA, Okla. — Born Elsie Mae Butler Feb. 7, 1920, in Wetumka to Pusler Butler and Susanna Dacon, Elsie is a fullblood member of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Muscogee (Creek)

Elsie Mae lived most of her life in Tulsa until the end of 2009 when her family moved her to Tucson, Ariz., to live with her youngest daughter and family.

On May 14, 1938, Elsie Mae Butler married Walter Elmer Martin. Together they had four children.

Proceeding Elsie in death is her: husband, Walter Martin; daughter, Barbara Sue Martin and son Leonard (Rusty) Martin.

She is survived by: daughters, Debbie Addison of Tucson and VaRene Martin of San Diego, Calif.; grandchildren, Dustin VanWinkle, Marisa Ahern, Reanna Cruz and Halley Addison as well as great-grandchildren, Ricky Vargas and Emilio Figuera.

Elsie has been honored by Southern Hills Baptist Church, AARP and Inducted into Mvskoke Hall of Fame for over 20 years of service as the primary caretaker for Ray Murphy, Jr. Ray Murphy was injured in a wrestling accident at Oklahoma State in 1969, which left him a quadriplegic.

Elsie Mae began her spiritual journey on Friday, June 5, 2015.

Prayer services were set for June 12 at Floral Haven Funeral Home. A celebration of Elsie's life and burial at Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel was set for June 13.

DEANIE ROBISON

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Deanie Robison passed on Dec. 5, 2014 at the age of 79 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Born October 23, 1935, Deanie was the youngest of 10 children born to Joe and Zelma Jane Robison of Weleetka, Eco Clan.

When Deanie was five-yearsold, and during the Great Depression, Joe Robison moved his family to California in search of employment. Deanie was raised in the San Joaquin Valley where he met and married his wife, Donna, in 1953.

After some years they relocated, first to Trinity County, and later to Anchorage, Alaska where Deanie went to work for the City of Anchorage.

Deanie loved the outdoors. He loved to hunt and fish and watch football.

He was very handy and spent many hours tinkering and building things in his garage. Deanie enjoyed his early morning coffee out on his back deck and loved to see the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren come to visit.

In later years, he used his cell phone to call his sister Zelma in California around 4 a.m. and his sister Bernice in Anchorage. Much like his older brothers, Deanie was quiet and anyone who knew him could easily say he had a heart of gold.

He lent a hand to anyone who needed help. He was generous and kind hearted and he will be deeply missed. Deanie made several trips back to Weleetka where he visited his brother, the late Buddy Joe Robison.

Raydean Robison was preceded in death by his:L mother and father; daughter, Deanna Robison Mercado; brothers, Willis, Hildred Nathalene (Robbie) Hully, Buddy Joe, Anthony (Tony) Robison and sisters, Cherokee Lucille Long, Arthemus (Artie) Langston and Zelma Quigley.

Deanie is survived by: one sibling, Bernice (Bunny) Kirkland; his wife of 61 years, Donna; sons, Rick and Daryl and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

DOUGLAS STARR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Douglas Henry Starr, 80, of Okmulgee, was born March 22, 1935. He passed away May 23, 2015. Graveside services were set for May 27 at the Harjo Family Cemetery. Services are under the direction of McClendon-Winters Funeral Home.

MNN FINAL SUBMISSION DATES

July 15 — July 7

Aug. 1 —July 24

Aug. 15 — Aug. 7 Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8

Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

Oct. 15 — Oct. 7

Nov. 1 — Oct. 23

Nov. 15 — Nov. 6

Dec. 1 — Nov. 20

Dec. 15 — Dec. 7

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR JULY 4

EUFAULA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Rev. William McCombs (1844-1929) is set for July 4 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Eufaula Community Center.

Please bring old photos, family stories and a pot-luck dish to share at the noon luncheon.

CMCA GATHERING SET FOR AUG. 1

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an annual gathering for Aug. 1 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia, Ave, Riverside CA, 92503.

For more information contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554 or jeannars@yahoo.com.

TCIC YOUTH CAMP SET FOR AUG. 3-8

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a weeklong youth ages 7-13 camp for Aug. 3-8. The camp will end with a parent day cookout. Come join and make new

Participants must live within TCIC boundaries and parents/ guardians should be a TCIC member. If they are not, they

The deadline to sign up is July 17 at 5 p.m. For more information call: 918-298-2464.

More details will be available in July.

MCN reschedules Festival Bass Classic

MCN T&R/Media Release

2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Bass Classic has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 18 at Lake Eufaula.

"Due to flooding concerns, we're rescheduling the bass tournament for the safety of our participants," MCN Tour-William Lowe said.

Teams will not need to re- in Eufaula Cove. register for the new date. New participants can register up to more information about the 7 p.m. on July 18.

have even more anglers for the visit www.creekfestival.com or new date," Lowe said.

The one-day tournament EUFAULA, Okla. — The features two-angler teams competing for the chance to win the \$5,000 grand prize. The cost to enter is \$200 per boat/team.

> Each team will receive two Wohali fishing rods. Additional prizes will be awarded.

Individuals may register ism and Recreation Director from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, July 17 at the South Point Pavilion

For additional rules and 2015 MCN Festival Bass Clas-"We are excited and hope to sic or other Festival events, call: 918-732-7992.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT In the Matter of the Guardianship Case No. GD-2015-12 of the Person and Estate of: S.C.S., III SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE To: Malinda Evelyn Michelle Priester and Stuart Collin Synder, II TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship of the Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD 2015-12, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: S.C.S., III, minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Final Decree of Guardianship over the minor child. You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner or appear on the 10^{th} day of July, 2015, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in their Petition Donna Beaver, Court Clerk ee District

MCN Southern Regional office July schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for July.

July 1 Citizenship

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. July 3

MCN closed

July 7, 14, 21, 28 Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

July 29

Social Services along with **Employment and Training** Closed

For more information call:

405-452-1100.



Myskoke Language Preservation Program puzzle

ENHECKV - Looks like



Your right to a hearing regarding **Social Security**

MCN SSAP/Media Release

you are eligible for benefits or hearing. that your benefits will stop or

step in the appeals process and evidence.

After you request a hearing, your case will be sent to ALJ's OKMULGEE, Okla. - You office. At least 20 days before can question the decision Social the scheduled hearing, you Security makes on your case. will receive a notice telling you After SS decides whether or not the date, time and place of the

You have the right to be change, you will receive a letter represented at your hearing. The explaining the decision. If you Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social do not agree with the decision, Security Assistance Program is you have the right to appeal it. pleased to announce that MCN There are four steps to an legislation has been passed appeal: 1. Reconsideration 2. that allows our department to Hearing 3. Appeals Council provide legal representation Review and 4. Federal Court. for the hearing at no cost to the The process must take place client. The representative will in the order listed with review the evidence in your reconsideration being the first case file and submit any new

MCN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

918-549-2479

federal court being the last.

information about the speak on your behalf and assist second step in the appeals you in answering any questions process, the hearing before an the ALJ may have regarding Administrative Law Judge.

after you receive the notice of submit evidence at the hearing. decision to ask for any type of appeal. If you do not appeal on evidence, the ALJ will issue a time, the ALJ may dismiss it. If written decision. You and your your case is dismissed, you may representative will receive a not be eligible for the next step copy of the decision or dismissal in the appeal process and you order. may also lose your right to any further review.

the 60-day deadline, you must telephone number is: 918-549explain the reason you are 2479. We are open Mondaylate and request an extension Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. to file. The ALJ will make the your explanation for late filing. any SS matter.

At the hearing, your This article will give you representative will be able to your case. Your representative Generally, you have 60 days may question witnesses and

After studying all of the

SSAP is located at the MCN Tribal Complex in the Solomon If you file an appeal after McCombs building. Our

We are available to assist our determination to accept or deny Muscogee (Creek) citizens with

Campaign finance bill veto overridden during Council session

Laws regarding employees', officials' criminal history pass

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held June 20 at the MCN Mound building in Okmulgee.

The Council started their business by voting to override a veto on:

• NCA 15-081 Creating a new chapter under MCN Code Annotated, Title 37 titled, 'The Campaign Finance Disclosure Act' and to establish a public ethics commission. Reps. David Nichols, David Hill, Frank Coachman and Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment.

In short, the legislation states that the goal of the commission and act is to prevent conflicts of interest by ensuring that any potential financial gain made by public officials does not affect the decisions made through their position.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger's veto message included concerns regarding potential conflicts between the new commission and the MCN Election Board stating that the board has the ability to serve the functions outlined for the commission and that the board said they were not consulted regarding the legislation, as he was told previously.

The commission consists of three members, one appointed by each branch of government. The message stated that the timetable outlined by the bill for the principal chief to make said appointment was a violation of the separation of powers since it was established for the executive office.

It states that the timetable for appointing commissioners and for them to outline their rules, conflicts with the upcoming election cycle.

It also states that many of the terms used in the legislation are not clearly defined and leave room for potential legal challenges.

Finally, it states that the bill violates U.S. federal law regarding ex post facto (after the fact) legislation by outlining rules regarding the submission of grand totals for contributions and expenditures from the last campaign.

The override passed 11-4 with Reps. Shirlene Ade, Pete Beaver, Joyce Deere and Johnnie Greene voting against it.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the following legisla-

• TR 15-107 Authorizing renovation to the Cromwell Indian Community building. Reps. Mitch Jack and Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The building was damaged due to a car crashing into it, which has compromised the structural integrity. It also states that the building floods any time there is heavy rain and it allows the exposure of natural heat and cold elements during meetings.

• NCA 15-121 Authorizing a \$2,000 special appropriation to eight Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The money will assist members of the Beggs Demons 10-years-old and under baseball team with traveling to participate in the Gulf Coast Ultimate World Series.

• NCA 15-144 Authorizing a \$519,664 special appropriation to the Cromwell Community. Jack and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The community needs financial assistance with renovating their building in order to: provide central heat and air, renovate the kitchen for possible use by the MCN Elderly Nutrition Program, make the bathroom and any additional ones compliant with the American with Disabilities Act, build a covered garage to safely house the community van and provide extra office and storage space.

• TR 15-084 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town for the method of allocation for the Nation's proportional share of funding for the Housing and Urban Development funds and the Indian Housing Block Grant. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Since the tribal towns are recognized as their own governments with their own citizens within the MCN, HUD has determined that with all parties' permission, the best way to prevent an overlap in services is to split the funding through enrollment, where the tribal towns receive money based on double their enrollment and MCN receive the remaining portion.

• TR 15-094 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the MCN and the City of Okemah, Okfuskee County for the construction and improvement of public roadways serving Indian communities. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The city agrees to maintain the roads once the Nation has constructed or improved them.

• TR 15-096 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between the Nation and Indian Heath Services for the employment of Paul W. Hamra as commissioned personnel at the Koweta Indian Health Center. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

Hamra will be employed as head of the dental department.

• TR 15-097 Approving a grant of easement for water line right-of-way to Okmulgee County Rural Water District #2 for the Twin Hills Convenience Store located in Okmulgee County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows for the necessary work to take place on tribal land in order to provide the store with a water line.

• TR 15-098 Approving a grant of easement for water line right-of-way to Wagoner County Rural Water District #5 at the Koweta Food Distribution Center. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation allows an easement take place on tribal land in order provide the center with the necessary water line.

• TR 15-099 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for grant opportunities available through the Energy and Mineral Development Program administered through the Bureau of Indian

Affairs Division of Energy and Mineral Development and authorizing the principal chief to execute necessary grant documents. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The grants will help fund the Nation's exploration of mineral assets located within the MCN landbase.

• TR 15-100 approving an assignment for a billboard lease located on trust lands in Tulsa and authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease assignment agreement. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN leases a billboard with Big Time Billboards LLC on trust land and wishes to renew the terms in order to retain the agreement.

• TR 15-101 Authorizing renovation to the Checotah Indian Community building. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The basement floods anytime there is heavy rain and renovations are needed to install a proper drainage system and waterproof the basement walls.

• TR 15-102 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a certification agreement between the MCN and The Green Building Certification Institute for the MCN Department of Health. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This certification agreement will allow U.S. Green Building Council oversight on the construction of MCNDH structures to make them Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design compliant. According to the USGBC website, LEED certified buildings save money and resources and have a positive impact on the health of occupants, while promoting renewable, clean energy.

• TR 15-103 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a healthcare administration internship policy agreement between MCN and Northeastern State University for MCNDH. Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

NSU seeks to place interns with MCNDH to provide them with evidence-based experience for course credit.

• TR 15-104 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a volume licensing agreement between MCN and Microsoft for the MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

Microsoft provides software that will assist MCNDH with efficiently and effectively man-

aging its services.

• TR 15-105 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a repatriation agreement and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act plan of action with the National Park Service Gulf Island National Seashore for the reburial of human remains and associated funerary objects at the gulf island national seashore. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

NPS has agreed to transfer all responsibility for the remains and objects to MCN and the two must enter into the plan of action to do so. They will be reburied with oversight from a tribal historic preservation officer from the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

• TR 15-108 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute an end user license agreement with Sophos Limited. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Sophos is a developer and vendor of computer security

software and hardware. GOAB is responsible for administering and managing MCN gaming facilities and wishes to purchase and utilize Sophos products and services.

• TR 15-109 Authorizing GOAB to execute marketing agreements with ATC Managed Sites LLC to market the use of a distributed antenna system and rooftop site to wireless service providers for River Spirit Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The RSC expansion is expected to create an increase in data usage for wireless communication and cell phone service by the casino and its patrons and the antenna will accommodate this.

• TR 15-110 Supporting GOAB to conduct adequate research and prepare proposed amendments to Title 21, Chapter 4 of the MCN gaming code to further enhance gaming operations. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation states that current provisions in the code are outdated and hinder day-to-day business including the: limitation to one-year contracts, low threshold for executive management to approve expenditures, inability to make expedient business decisions and outdated provisions that don not recognize executive level staff with proper executive level authorities.

This will allow GOAB to review MCNCA and propose amendments to address this.

• TR 15-111 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute a license renewal application between MCN and Oklahoma State Department of Health for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0

MCNDH needs to renew licensure to provide home health care with OSDH through Oklahoma State University, which is the regulating body for this in the state.

• TR 15-112 Authorizing the formation of the Myskoke Nation Youth Council. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation states Muscogee (Creek) youth are the leaders of the future and need experience to prepare them.

• TR 15-113 Authorizing the principal chief on behalf of MCNDH to execute a facility authorization request with OSDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH is eligible to receive certain vaccinations for free from the federal government to provide to Muscogee (Creek) children and an agreement with OSDH is necessary since it is the local government agency that distributes said vaccinations.

• TR 15-114 Authorizing GOAB to execute an agreement with Thompson Construction Inc. for refurbishment of the parking lot at Duck Creek Casino. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The parking lot needs renovations, which will continue the good aesthetics of the facility and thus generate more revenue for MCN.

• TR 15-115 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract between owner and contractor with SplashPadsUSA for the Claude A. Cox Ominplex splash pad. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.

MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley said that the MCN Tribal Construction Department has requested more time to review the proposed project.

• TR 15-116 Amending TR 15-074 (authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Nation and Okmulgee Creek County for the maintenance of roadways/ bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by the MCN Tribal Transportation Program). Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The legislation changes language on a previous bill, which authorized TTP road improvements in Okmulgee County to read Creek County instead.

• NCA 15-092 Authorizing a \$28,744 appropriation to Glenpool Creek Indian Community for repairs and renovations. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

The legislation states that GCIC received a \$142,497 appropriation through NCA 13-260 for their 2014 operating budget and seek approval to utilize the remaining funds from this to bring the kitchen in their community center up to code and install industrial kitchen equipment that they have already purchased.

It also states that the bathrooms also need to be updated to fix plumbing issues and repair flooding that has already occurred.

• NCA 15-093 Amending NCA 13-260 (authorizing a special appropriation to GCIC for FY 2014 operating budget). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed indefinitely.

The legislation states that GCIC has \$91,813 left from the FY 2014 budget appropriation and requests the use of this money for renovations to their center rather than returning it to the tribal treasury as stated in the original appropriation.

• NCA 15-100 Approving the 2016 Indian Housing Plan. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Eligibility for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act Indian Housing Block Grant funds, requires a tribally approved Indian housing plan be submitted to HUD for compliance approval at least 75 days before the end of the tribe's fiscal year.

• NCA 15-118 Authorizing the expenditure of an additional \$200,000 for the construction of the Morris walking trail project. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Due to unforeseen problems and weather-related delays, the cost to complete the project has increased.

• NCA 15-119 Amending MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 3, titled, 'Fire Protection.' Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment edits the legislation for grammar, accuracy and clarity. It also changes the eligibility requirement for rural volunteer fire departments from making them unable to receive assistance within a three-year period after being funded by MCN, to allowing them to do so as long as the grant requirements are

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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

It also adds that in order to receive assistance, a line item budget with no less than three quotes must be submitted. It also changes and increases the funding accountability and reporting process after the grant is awarded.

• NCA 15-120 Authorizing a \$143,544 supplemental appropriation to the MCN Higher Education Doctorate Degree Program FY 2015 budget. Reps. Tiger and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funding will be used to cover awards for the 2015 spring and summer semesters.

• NCA 15-122 Amending MCNCA, Title 19, Section 5-102, titled, 'Candidate must be registered and take leave from employment with Muscogee (Creek) Nation.' Reps. Tiger and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Tribal employees seeking to run for MCN political office must take leave from their positions during the campaign period. The legislation would allow employees to use their available paid annual, compensatory or personal leave during this time.

• NCA 15-123 Authorizing a \$2,000 special appropriation to Allen Free Will Baptist man sponsored the legislation, which passed 13-1 with Rep. Tiger voting against it.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among American Indians and the second leading cause of death among American Indian Women. MCNDH supports AHA and requests a donation for the conference.

• NCA 15-127 Authorizing the expenditure of \$39,940 in grant funds from the First Nations Development Institute SEEDS Block Grant awarded to the Department of Commerce to support Okfuskee Indian Community traditional food education and expansion of the community garden and food bank development project at the Okfuskee Indian Community Center. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The grant will support traditional food education for Muscogee (Creek) children and expand the community garden and food bank at the center.

• NCA 15-128 Establishing the MCN Youth Services revolving fund for various fundraising activities of MCN Youth Services. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program would like to begin fundraising activities to support their goals, specifically the development of the program and needs the account in order to collect and expend these funds.

• NCA 15-129 Creating the Mvskoke Language Program revolving fund account for the ments with her softball team, which is nationally ranked #32.

• NCA 15-133 Authorizing a \$4,000 donation to the Oklahoma Wild Bunch Youth Rodeo Association. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The non-profit association has approximately 20 Muscogee (Creek) members and requested assistance to purchase five saddles to award to first place winners at the OWBYRA Finals where they will award a total of 25 saddles.

• NCA 15-134 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Audrey Roberts and Hulleah Wincle sought financial assistance to compete in the World Series with the Henryetta Heat 12-years-old and under fast pitch softball team.

• NCA 15-135 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Jasmyne Jack and Kaden Lewis requested financial assistance with traveling to attend the first ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering sponsored the by the U.S. Department of Justice Today's Native Leaders program and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

• NCA 15-136 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a

prohibit anyone who has been convicted of a felony against MCN to be eligible for the Office of Principal Chief or Second Chief or any appointive office established by the MCN Constitution.

With final MCN government approval, this proposal will be placed on the Sept. 19 primary ballot to be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote from eligible Muscogee (Creek) citizens who vote in the election.

• NCA 15-140 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Transit Department FY 2015 budget. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department wishes to make this modification in order to reallocate certain funds for other expenses.

• NCA 15-141 Authorizing a \$1,530,429 appropriation for the MCN Department of Education and Training Literacy Program for FY 2016. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 10-4 with Beaver, Deere, Jennings and Ade voting against it.

The department needs additional funding to continue the community-wide reading program through myON Reader, an online digital library.

• NCA 15-142 Authorizing a \$99,999 appropriation to fund the costs associated with constructing a Claude A. Cox Omniplex splash pad. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The splash pad will be used to compliment other activities available for families at the omniplex. A splash pad is a recreation area that sprays water up through nozzles in the ground.

• NCA 15-143 Authorizing a \$899,645 supplemental appropriation for the Tribal Construction Services Department. Reps. Tiger and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0

The department has several projects in the works and funding for more staff and equipment is necessary to oversee them as required by law.

• NCA 15-145 Authorizing a \$1,500 special appropriation to six Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Tessa Ethelbah, Athena Harrison, Elisiah Harrison, Robert Harrison, Frances Herrod and Zula Herrod requested financial assistance to attend Indian Falls Creek Church Camp through Tookparfka Indian Baptist Church.

• NCA 15-146 Appropriating \$218,177.72 to Grant Thornton LLP to facilitate the forensic audit. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month 13-1 with Coachman voting against the motion.

• NCA 15-147 Appropriating \$187,491 to continue and expand the Junior Botball Challenge Program to be administered by the Department of Education and Training. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-2 with Jennings and Ade voting against it.

According to their website, the Junior Botball Challenge is a sustainable program that provides reusable equipment, software, standards-aligned curriculum and professional development opportunities to teach elementary students code writing and cover engineering design standards.

The first competition was a success and the legislation is aimed at continuing and ex-

panding it.

• NCA 15-148 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Reps. Hufft and Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Andrea and Allizabeth Brummet requested financial assistance to attend a cross-cultural, family retreat mission trip in Lima, Peru.

• NCA 15-149 Authorizing a \$4,010 special appropriation to Randall Indian Baptist Church. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Twenty-two Muscogee (Creek) citizens who are members of the church wish to attend Indian Falls Creek Church Camp and request financial assistance to do so.

• NCA 15-150 Authorizing a \$1,000 special appropriation to four Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Malorie Burgess, Brianna Harris, Abigail Harris and Tatiyona Harris requested financial assistance to travel and compete in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics National Championship with the AAU 3-D Elite track team.

• NCA 15-151 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kalli Brackney requested financial assistance to travel and play in the USSSA World Series fast pitch softball tournament with the Ultimate 05, 10-years-old and under team.

• NCA 15-152 Appropriating \$54,000 to the Mound Building oversight committee for the maintenance and upkeep of the Mound Building. Yahola and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The committee requested funding for a mower to service the grounds surrounding the building and to: repair the floor by the public restrooms, install the annual Christmas lights display and replace the sound system in the auditorium.

Nichols was excused.

The July quarterly session is scheduled July 25.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the 2010 MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN District Court website at: www. muscogeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Church. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The church was destroyed by a fire May 5 and requested assistance in covering the cost to rebuild and furnish its interior since insurance will not.

• NCA 15-124 Appropriating \$71,100 to MCNDH to maintain and upgrade the emergency medical alert device system. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises conducted an assessment of the current system and determined it needs to be upgraded. The current one needs to be maintained and eventually replaced and a back-up system needs to be installed in case the current one fails.

• NCA 15-125 Amending MCNCA, Title 28, Subchapter 6-105 titled 'The Master Plan.' Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Cultural Center and Achieves Department is requesting the designated 'cultural preservation area' be renamed to honor full-blood Muscogee (Creek) master bow-maker Mike Berryhill.

• NCA 15-126 Authorizing a \$10,000 donation to the American Heart Association for the Go Red for Women Native Women Conference. Coachexpenditure of all departmental income. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The fund is for the collection and expenditure of funds from the sale of CDs, CD ROMs, phrase books, DVDs, calendars and any other funds, including donations, accrued by the pro-

• NCA 15-130 Authorizing a \$1,100 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amend-

ment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen
Rian Donaldson sought assistance to study in Madrid, Spain
in order to solidify the training
she has received in learning a
second language.

• NCA 15-131 Creating an Employment and Training Program revolving fund account for the apprenticeship program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The fund is for reinvesting income acquired through labor on various projects, back into the apprenticeship program in order to provide participants with wages and supplies.

• NCA 15-132 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jolie Fish requested assistance to travel and compete in tournaMuscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Adam Hill was selected to play in the Native All Star Football Classic and requested financial assistance to do so.

• NCA 15-137 Authorizing the expenditure of \$292,795 to re-roof the Solomon McCombs building. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

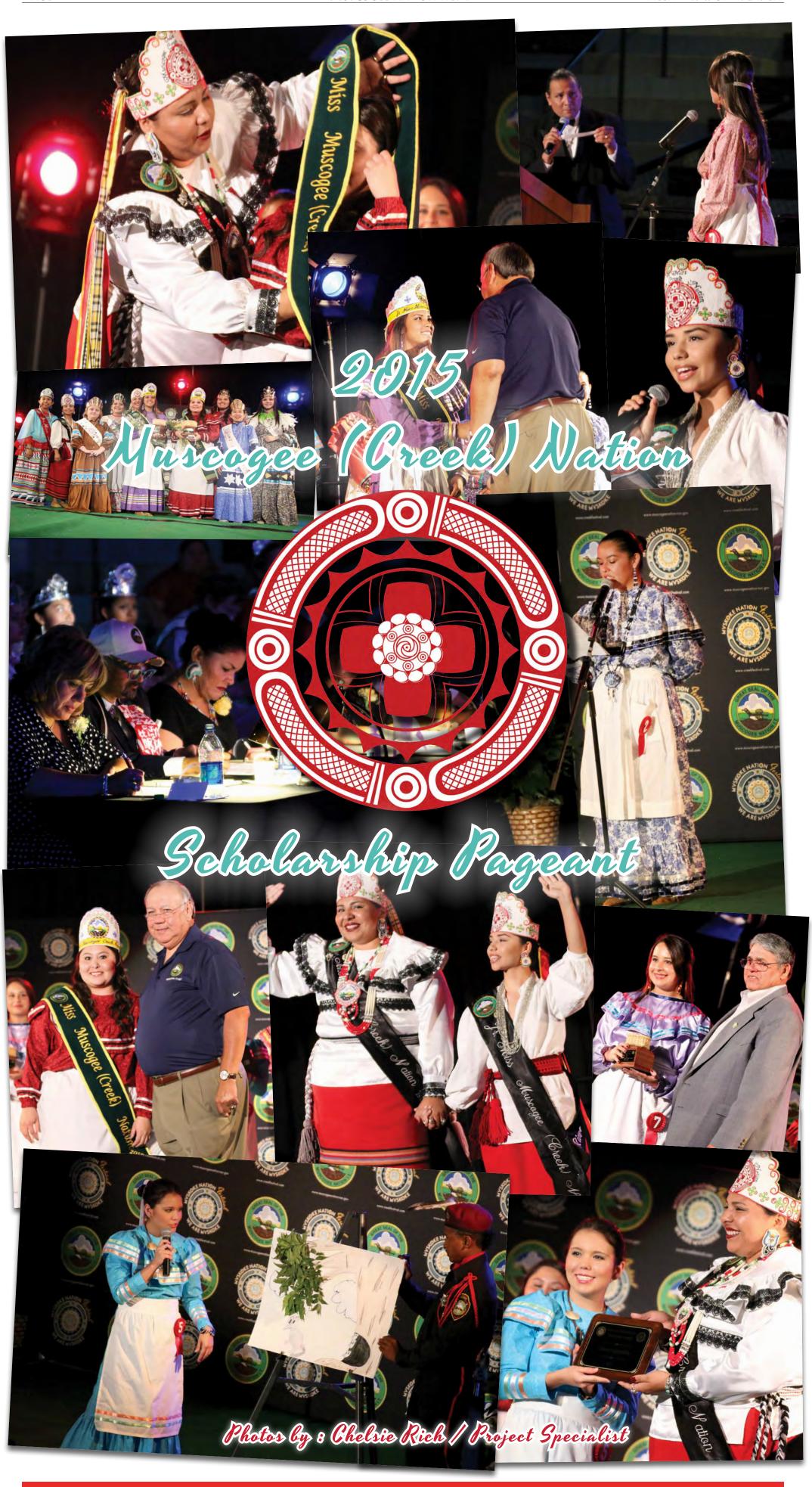
The building is one of the oldest on the MCN Tribal Complex and its roof needs repairs. The GSA Department has funds available to cover the cost and needs approval to expend them.

• NCA 15-138 Amending Title 37, Chapter 3 and establishing a new Title 37, Chapter 3, Subchapter 11 titled, 'Hiring and Employment Prohibition.' Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The legislation is aimed at prohibiting the hiring or employment of people who have committed felony crimes against MCN and MCN entities.

• NCA 15-139 Amending Article V, Section 1(F) and Article VI, Section 2(C) of the MCN Constitution to add language pertaining to felony criminal convictions against MCN. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The legislation is aimed to



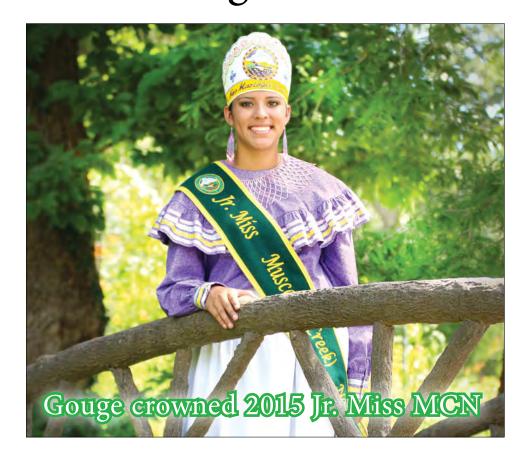








Introducing the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation royalty



Pageant winner looks to inspire others

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Muscogee (Creek) citizen Madeline Gouge was crowned 2015-2016 Jr. Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant June 6 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. She was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship among other prizes.

Gouge knew she wanted to compete for the title but the attention she was getting from others helped influence her decision.

Gouge spoke about an experience that changed her perspective.

"Someone messaged me and said that their daughter wished they were like me," Gouge said. "They're already looking up to me so I did it for the younger generations."

Gouge competed against four others for the title and accomplished her vision of becoming Jr. Miss MCN.

"It was overwhelming, but I felt very humbled to be picked and I was ready to step forward and take the title," Gouge said.

Gouge's platform focuses on inspir-

ing people.

"I could go to schools and tell them

what inspired me and that every day that when you get up should have an inspiration. Be inspired to do something," Gouge said. "My inspiration is to tell people that there's always a reason, good or bad... there's always something that keeps you going."

Gouge said she looks to her mother for guidance and direction.

"She's always been there for me. She's so merciful and loving and she always has open arms whenever I need her the most," Gouge said.

Gouge said she is prepared for what the next year has to bring and what she hopes to accomplish during her reign.

"To embrace everything, all the learning experiences," Gouge said.

After high school, Gouge hopes to play softball at the colligate level and find a school where she can pursue her education to become a pharmacist or physical therapist. She is working for the MCN Scholarship Foundation through the summer youth program.

Gouge is a member of the Beaver Clan, Tulsa Canadian Tribal Town, Crosstown Church and is the daughter of Geebon and Jenna Gouge from Hen-

Gouge is the granddaughter of Karen and Joe Robertson, Johnny and Mary Boyce and the late Thompson and Lutie Gouge.



New tribal princess aims to represent Nation

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - Muscogee (Creek) citizen Shannon Barnett was crowned 2015-2016 Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation during the 2015 MCN Scholarship Pageant June 6 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee. She was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship among other prizes.

Barnett is from Broken Arrow and recently graduated from the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmulgee with an Associate of Science in tribal services and a certificate in Mvskoke language studies.

When Barnett was presented with the opportunity to serve as tribal royalty, she took it.

"I just wanted the chance to get to represent for and be our goodwill ambassador," Barnett said.

Her platform is preserving Muscogee (Creek) culture and education.

"I definitely want to get the word out and visit schools because I want to encourage the youth how important it is to preserve our culture," Barnett said. "Then also to encourage them to come to CMN and know that higher educa-

tion is possible for them." Barnett is leading by example and plans to study elementary education at the Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow campus.

"I want to teach elementary education, preferably in an Indian education department but then I would also like to work with the tribe in the language department and teach the Mvskoke language," said Barnett.

Barnett spoke about her teacher from CMN, Norma Marshall who has had an influence on her life.

"She's just really passionate and cares about the Mvskoke language and culture and you can tell she really cares about her students," Barnett said.

Barnett is working with Marshall during her MCN College Work Experience Program internship.

"I feel like I can go to her for anything; for help or advice," she said.

Barnett looks forward to reigning as

Miss MCN.

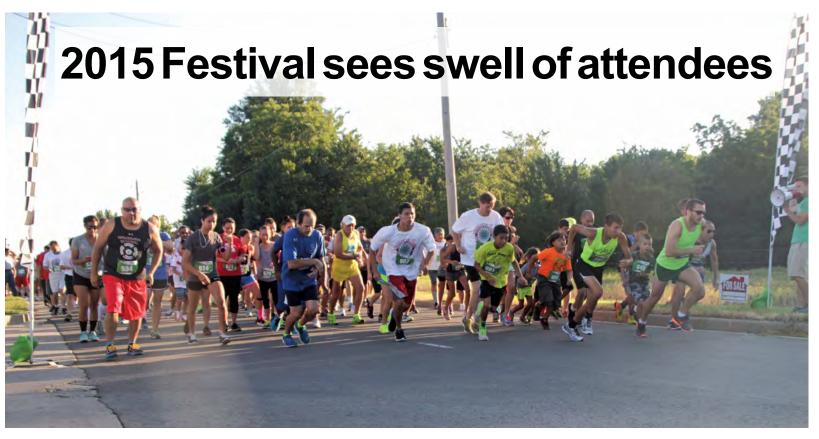
"I hope to just get to meet as much people as I can," Barnett said. "I'm real excited to travel and meet a lot of our citizens and just for some of the opportunities presented to me and Jr. Miss."

In her spare time she enjoys playing fastpitch softball.

Barnett is a member of the Bird Clan, Kialegee Tribal Town, Solid Rock Baptist Church and is the daughter of Kay and Daniel Barnett from Broken Ar-



MUSCOGEE NATION



Jessica McBride/MNN The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival 5K Run/Walk June 27 drew participants from under one year to 90-years-old.

41st annual event draws to a close

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The late afternoon sun shown bright from the west and a fire cracked in the center of the clearing. The sound of a male voice cut through the chatter of the crowd.

"Locv! Locv!" (turtle, turtle) was the call for stompdancers opening the 41st annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival June 25 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Chief George Tiger. Okmulgee.

"The stompdance is a time where everyone is welcome to come out and experience the exhibition and enjoy the hogfry and frybread," MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation Director Will Lowe said.

During the stompdance, MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks was and the Festival. honored and given a Pendleton blanket from MCN Principal

Tallahassee Ceremonial the late evening. Ground member and Tokpalv (stick man) Josiah Buckley picked dance leaders. He has attended the Festival stompdance since he was a child.

Buckley said he does not focus on the difference between dancing at the ceremonial ground

"I really don't pay attention, I just have fun," Buckley said.

The dancing continued until

A number of sports activities for all ages began bright and early on day two of Festival, June 26: the golf tournament at Fountainhead Golf Course in Checotah, the Junior Olympics at Harmon Stadium in Okmulgee and senior citizens' activities at the senior housing near the MCN

Festival - 7

MCN hosts at-large citizen forum



Muscogee (Creek) citizens who live outside the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction were hosted by MCN June 19 for the at-large listening forum.

Citizens residing outside jurisdiction learn about services

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation hosted an at-large listening forum June 19 at the College of the Muscogee Nation Student Center in Okmulgee. The event was held for Muscogee (Creek) citizens living outside the MCN jurisdiction, many of which lived outside of Oklahoma.

During the forum, departments and programs delivered presentations about the services they have available for at-large citizens. Tribal leaders also listened to concerns from forum attendees.

Attendee Victoria Bomberry of California said she visited the MCN website in the past for information but the forum provided a new level of clarity.

"To actually be here and experience interacting with peo-

Forum - 2



New emergency center announced in Okmulgee

Expansion to decrease wait times, patients leaving untreated

MCNDH/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health announced plans June 25 for emergency room expansion at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee.

The project will add 7,407 additional square feet to the current emergency room space and is expected to create a tremendous impact for Okmulgee and the surrounding areas for both Native and non-Native patients.

The expansion will increase

patient satisfaction, decrease patient wait time and lower the rate of patients leaving the facility without being seen.

The current facility operates in 4,856 square feet with one large trauma room divided by a curtain.

The new emergency room expansion will include a total of 18 additional emergency rooms consisting of three trauma rooms, 10 fast track treatment rooms, four observation/ treatment rooms and one isolation/decontamination room.

An additional entrance into radiology will be created to

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Myskoke Media honored with 14 **NAJA** awards

Mvskoke Media/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The media arm of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) was honored with 14 awards from the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA).

NAJA holds the National Native Media Awards annually, recognizing Native American journalists and reporters that cover Native issues.

'Muscogee Nation News' Sterling Cosper Editor thanked MCN, NAJA, 'MNN' staff and subscribers for their roles in elevating Mvskoke Media to a higher standard.

"I am immensely proud of the 'Muscogee Nation News' and continue to be impressed by our consistent growth as well as that of the other Mvskoke Media subsidiaries who won this year," Cosper said. "It is an honor to be recognized in the National Native Media Awards, which have become increasingly competitive as the Native American Journalists Association gains more members.

Mvskoke Media strives to provide comprehensive, balanced, accurate and quality coverage of relevant information regarding Muscogee (Creek) Nation programs, services, events and citizens. Mvskoke Media provides coverage twice a month in print through the 'Muscogee Nation News,' a weekly radio show through 'Mvskoke Radio' and a weekly television show through 'Native News Today.'

Awards are as follows:

Professional Division-Television- 1st place Best News Story Jason Salsman, 3rd place Best Feature Story Jason Salsman.

Professional Division- Radio- 1st place General Excellence Mvskoke Radio, 1st place Best Feature Story Gary Fife, 2nd place Best Feature Story Darren DeLaune.

Professional Division-Print- 1st place Best Column Gary Fife, 2nd place Best Column Darren DeLaune, 3rd place Best Column Gary Fife, 2nd place Best Sports Story Darren DeLaune, 2nd place Best Feature Story Chelsie Rich, 2nd place Best Layout 'Muscogee Nation News.'

Associate Division- Print-1st place Best Coverage of Native Americans Jessica Mc-Bride, 1st place Best Feature Story Jessica McBride, 2nd place Best News Story Jessica McBride.

FORUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ple was tremendous. So, I got a much better understanding of what is going on here at Muscogee Nation and just to see the tremendous growth and the new services really makes me proud," Bomberry said.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Eli Grayson, who was involved in

the experience was a pilot program to educate at-large citizens with the intention of benefitting their communities and she felt that mission was accomplished.

"It was a grueling schedule but they have a lot of information and we know that it can be

I got a much better understanding of what is going on here at Muscogee Nation and just to see the tremendous growth and the new services really makes me proud."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Victoria Bomberry

organizing the forum, said a lot of the information was previously unknown to attendees.

"Everyone here said they didn't know 80 percent of the stuff that was going on here [at the Nation]," Grayson said. "It is just not receiving information from here; it's actually inputting, 'how could the tribe help us out?"

The visitors also toured the MCN Tribal Complex and attended the MCN Nation Council regular session June

MCN Public Relations Manager Selina Jayne Dornan said done. We know that it is helpful," Jayne Dornan said.

Jayne Dornan went on to say the one possible fault with the experience is that it needed more time.

That sentiment was echoed by attendee Cindy Long of

"There is much to take in and we just need more time because I know there is more to what is being done that we didn't even get a chance to hit on today," Long said.

Jayne Dornan hopes the Nation will do something similar again in the future.

Candidate profiles to be taken at filing

More candidate forum, election details released

Mvskoke Media/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' will take candidate profile information and photos on-site during the filing period July 20-22 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. for the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation officer elec-

MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their 100 total word limit bios, which will run in the MNN Aug. 15 edition.

Bios should include, as available, candidates': full name, district and seat they are running for, clan, tribal town, ceremonial ground and/or church, education/experience, contact information for citizens and campaign platform.

No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material.

Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.

The profile submission period has been narrowed to quickly inform Muscogee (Creek) citizens ahead of deadlines established by the MCN Election Board.

A candidate forum hosted by Mvskoke Media will be held Aug. 15 at the Dome Building on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, with the second chief portion starting at 10 a.m. and principal chief at 1 p.m.

For more information about the profiles, contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or email: scosper@ mcn-nsn.gov.

From the MCN Election Board:

The filing fees are as follows: MCN principal chief - \$1,500, second chief - \$1,000 and National Council representative - \$500.

For more information about the election, contact the board at: 918-732-7631 or 918-732-7685.

MCN program coordinates jail tour for minors



Darren DeLaune/MNN

At-risk youth walk towards the David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center in Tulsa, Okla., for a tour of the facility.

Reintegration aims to show the consequences of crime

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Several Muscogee (Creek) youth went on an outing June 22 to somewhere that is not on the usual list of field trips.

With the help of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program, the destination was Tulsa to visit the David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center also known as Tulsa County Jail.

DLMCJC had some of their inmates featured on the television shows 'Lockup' and 'Jail.'

Why a tour of the jail?

"This is a place you do not want to end up being at," RiP Youth Specialist Keith Green said. "We want them to see now and see what taking the wrong

road can do."

Why did it have to be this extreme?

"Because a majority of the time, in order for children to understand, they will need to see it," RiP Case Manager Carrie Wyatt said. "That is the only way they will understand."

Wyatt explained to the youth that their actions have consequences.

"We hope they will understand the choices that they make from a day-to-day basis and what those choices can lead to," Wyatt said.

The youth took the tour and saw what a jail looks like from the inside.

They met with DLMCJC Chief Deputy Michelle Robinette and Muscogee (Creek) citizen and detention officer Robert Walker.

The tour began with an introduction and the youth were

asked about their initial perceptions of jail.

Walker explained the difference between jail and prison.

Then the youth were then taken on a tour, which ended with them having the same lunch as

Beans and rice were served, which Walker said is a hot com-

the inmates.

"We want them to see that jail is not glorified," Walker said. "A lot of people when asked how jail is will try to glorify it and say it is worse or cooler than what it is perceived from the truth. I am hoping that they see for themselves what the jail is like and do not believe what other people or the television say."

During the tour, the inmates were told to turn and face the wall when the youth walked by.

However, one inmate risked getting in trouble to deliver a message.

"Don't come here," they said. "Do not get in trouble and come

Walker has high hopes for these tours.

"If the children can see what the inmates go through then hopefully that will turn them around," Walker said. "If it reaches one kid and helps them, then we did our job."

One 15-year-old minor dreaded the tour beforehand.

"It scared me," she said. "Seeing the jail today helped me to make better choices in who my friends are and show respect to my family."

For more information about the program or jail tours, contact RiP at: 918-652-2676.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen elected to Beggs City Council

Jack Melton excited about new position, challenge

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Lanissa Jack Melton was elected as Ward 4 city council member for the City of Beggs on April 7 and sworn into office in May.

Melton has goals that she would like to meet during her tenure on the city council.

"I feel that Beggs is growing," Melton said. "If we can get more projects into our city, we can get more employment for people that live here."

Melton said that more families are moving to Beggs and some of those are Native American.

"More Natives are moving into our town," Melton said. "It has increased within the last few years."

Melton explained that there

are four city council members to go along with the mayor and all of them have to answer to the citizens.

"That is who we are working for," Melton said.

Melton said she felt that where she grew up helped her prepare for her new position on the city council.

"I grew up in the town of Dustin," Melton said. "We have the traditional values with everyone helps everyone. I feel with those views that I have growing up, we can instill those in our City of Beggs."

Melton spoke about what made her want to run for city council.

"I was approached about running for our city council," Melton said. "I told everyone I had to do my homework first but after I looked it over I thought I would be good to candidate for that position."

Melton was not prepared to celebrate her success in the election. When she heard that she was ahead in the polls she was heading to a baseball practice.

"I did not have a watch party," Melton said. "I was surprised that they voted me in."

She had a certain way of looking at the results when it was finalized.

"I told myself, 'If I won, I won,' Melton said. "If I didn't, I didn't. I had no hard feelings about it either way."

Melton said she cannot wait to serve the citizens of Beggs. Her term is two years.

"Anything that can help our city go further, that is what I want to do," Melton said. "We want Beggs to be successful."

Melton has four children and has been married for over 17 years. She is a member of Arbeka Ceremonial Grounds and the Skunk Clan.

MUSCOGEE NATION

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND

arutland@mcn-nsn.gov REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov



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MCN program offers Social Security filing assistance



A first-hand account of the application process

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — When you're young, you think that filing for Social Security is just something that old folks think about, that such a thing is lightyears away and won't matter to you for ages.

But, those years slip by and the next thing you know, you get old and retirement age is staring you in the face. Then, it's time to find out what the process is, what kinds of federal benefits are available to you and when the best time is for you to start receiving them.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has an office established to assist Muscogee (Creek) citizens in filing for Social Security and other supplementary benefits for which they may be eligible.

Since I was a few months shy of reaching 65-years-of-age, I contacted that office in order to find out how to get signed up and pass that information on to other citizens who may be in the same age bracket and in need of this information.

Shutterstock image Lottie Farris, Case Manager with the MCN Social Security Assistance Program spoke with

It all began in 1935 through President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

me June 10 on 'Mvskoke Radio'

about Social Security and ex-

plained what it was.

"It was his idea to kind of force people to start saving for their retirement," Farris said. "If something happened, where they passed away or became disabled and could no longer work, there would be a program where some income would come into the house."

These are the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) and other deductions taken out of employee paychecks as retirement benefits to go towards what Americans receive when they retire and file with the Social Security Administration.

"That is a mandatory tax for probably 99.9 percent of workers out there," Farris said. "They take six point two percent out of every paycheck and then your employer will take the additional six point two percent to contribute to Social Security."

Upon retirement, recipients can expect the federal program

to only meet a portion of their financial needs, and Farris suggests workers have some other alternatives going for them.

"But you need to start putting aside for your own savings, 401(k)s, your pensions that you get from your employer and make sure that everything is involved," Farris said. "Social Security will pay about 40 percent of your pre-retirement earnings in a benefit. So, you have that other 60 percent that you've been living on 62 or 65 years and you need something to fill that gap."

Those seeking MCN SSAP assistance should bring their Social Security and MCN citizenship cards.

Signing up begins with an assessment form.

"We do take applications for retirement, disability, SSI and Medicare. We're able to help our

"One of the things they do need to remember is that we are funded by the tribe and so only Creek citizens are allowed to file with us or their dependents. So, if you are married to a non-Creek, your spouse can still get services from us, because you are Creek," Farris said.

Basic information such as name, address and a Social Security number is requested. Some of that is confidential and is respected by program staff. That part of the file remains confidential.

"On our assessment, we kind of ask, 'what you're in for? What are you interested in and filing for?' In your case, we ask you about your work, if you are planning to continue to work, how much you're going to work and earn and what your plans for re-

tirement are going to be," Farris

They tailored the process to my specific situation from there.

"When we found out that you are going to continue to work for a while and since you're turning 65 in the fall, you came in, in time for us to take a Medicare application for you to have your Medicare effective on your birth month," Farris said.

She outlined my pertinent information based on that.

"We want to know about your citizenship, where you were born and that is for Social Security to identify you in their system," Farris said. "So, what we ask for is your Social Security number, your date of birth. We any spouses, we don't need to know how much you're working and earning and that sort of thing. We just know that you want your Medicare to start," Farris said.

Required information about existing health insurance is next.

"We ask you about your group health plan and with most employers, it's when you start working," Farris said. "You say your employment is continuing, so we don't really need the Part B of Medicare and that's what we want to make sure of, that you don't need it before we turn you loose and say 'OK.' "

Medicare has an initial enrollment period, where you can file three months before your birth-

Social Security will pay about 40 percent of your pre-retirement earnings in a benefit."

— MCN SSAP Case Manager **Lottie Farris**

very rarely have to have proof of birth these days, because Social Security has upgraded their system and they don't need that information because it has been put in there already."

A current mailing address is needed however.

"Even though you're not receiving a benefit. We need to know where to send your card, any updates on Medicare that you might need," Farris said.

Again, my specific needs determined what was needed for the application.

"Then they want to know if you want to file for monthly benefits, in addition to your Medicare. In your case, you answered that question 'no' because you are going to continue working. So, that kind of limits the information we need.

"We don't need to know about

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is**

research study aimed at assessing pain

processing in Native Americans.

To participate, you must NOT* — Currently have chronic pain or

- Have high blood pressure or

take antihypertensive medications

*Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

take pain medications

conducting a University of Tulsa IRB-approved

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy

(currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications

Investigators:

Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow

day, the month of your birthday or three months after. This timely filing, she said, is critical because Medicare benefits could be delayed or financial penalties could occur otherwise.

With the assessment and application complete, my initial Social Security health coverage will be set up. Monthly payments will be delayed until I am ready to stop working and start receiving them.

I will be earning credits and a higher payment if I continue working after retirement age.

The pile of correspondence from insurance companies is growing as they try to sell me coverage. I'll probably take a look at them and discard most.

MCN SSAP is on hand to help with Social Security and disability applications at: 918-549-



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). \$200 compensation (\$100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals

at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.



For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Emvpanayv: 'One who tells a story'



Stuck with \$20 Jackson, new Native liaison, upcoming elections

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It looks like Natives have lost out on the campaign to get rid of Andrew Jackson on the U.S. \$20 bill.

The late Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller was put forward to replace Ol' Hickory, but didn't win the public vote for her candidacy.

Now, according to the U.S. Treasury website, Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew has decided that the new \$10 note should feature a woman and not the \$20. The feds chose the \$10 because, they say, it is the biggest target for counterfeiters.

The new notes are scheduled to appear in 2020, in part to mark the 100th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote.

The public will be able to weigh in on who should replace Alexander Hamilton — the first ever U.S. secretary of the Treasury. Secretary Lew will announce the selection later this year. Maybe we should start a 'write-in' for Mankiller?

Remember all those bad jokes about all those non-Indian people claiming they are descended from 'Cherokee grandmothers?' What if it were true? Could it be?

Here's something: most multi-racial Americans say they are part Indian (that is, the American type and not the folks over in Asia).

The, Pew Research group a national research think tank says their findings are that 50 percent of Americans surveyed who claimed they had more than one race in their ancestry, say they're Indian.

2013 numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau say about 21 percent checked off the racial combination of Indian and white.

And... survey says! Most have little or nothing to do with their respective tribes.

Big surprise there, huh?

The mid-June edition of 'Broadcasting and Cable' reports, the U.S. secretary of Education says the Disneyland-On-The-Potomac professional football team should change its name.

Sec. Ed Duncan said: "It makes no sense to me why the Washington pro football team won't do the same and stop perpetuating racial stereotypes."

That was recently, after teams in the states of California and New York dropped their Native nicknames and mascots.

Closer to home, a new staff member has been added to the Oklahoma governor's American Indian liaison office.

To refresh your memory, Jacque Hensley was brought in to take over the consultation you again.

duties that were handled by the former Indian Affairs Commission. Gov. Mary Fallin eliminated the commission a few years ago, saying that a liaison could better make the connection with the state's tribal governments and her office.

Uh-huh. This year, Chris Benge, a Cherokee man was named to take over the position formerly held by Hensley.

In an interview with 'Mvskoke Radio' earlier this year, Benge said there was a probable need for additional staff to perform some of the tasks. In other words, to do the actual work.

So, now we get Brian Hendrix named as Deputy Assistant for Native American Affairs in the Secretary of State's office. Hendrix was the State-Tribal Crime Victim Liaison with the District Attorney's Council. Word has it, he is a Myskoke

I never heard anything about a search for someone to fill this staff position. So, the Governor has conducted two such searches to find someone for the job of hearing what tribes have to say and us plainol' Indins never heard a thing about either one of them.

Since this system has been in place, I haven't seen much, if anything produced or announced by the office. Hendrix is a step-down from the governor's Indian liaison, so I'm wondering if tribal concerns are now a step-down in importance to the administration.

Don't be too surprised if what you see is the new deputy assistant visiting a few tribes, getting the mandatory presents, tours and dinners and saying, he takes this position, 'very, very seriously.'

Go ahead, Gov., prove me wrong. Skeptic? Who me?

OK, now for the local stuff. Muscogee (Creek) Nation elections are coming up. Positions up for grabs will be the principal chief, second chief and National Council seat A.

Myskoke Media will conduct a political forum for candidates Aug. 15 at the Myskoke Dome and it's still a work in progress, so stay tuned.

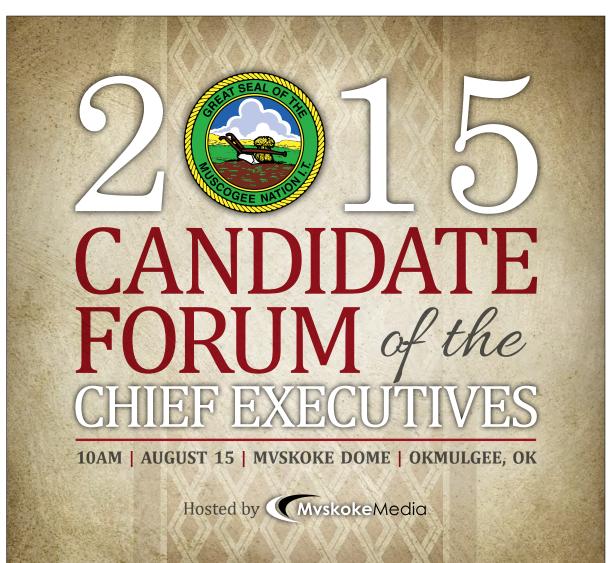
Make sure you are registered to vote and get out and cast your ballot. Remember:

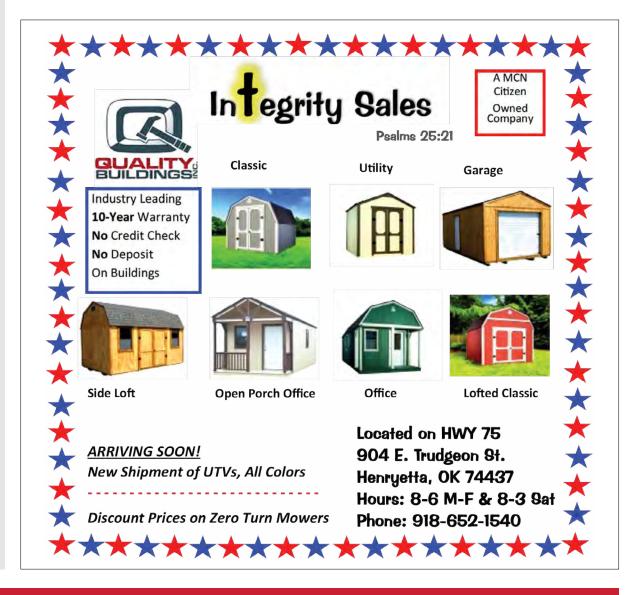
"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters." — Abraham Lincoln



Hvtvm Cehecares — I will see







Citizen beams in physics world



uhmissio

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jared Canright was named a Macey Scholar May 27, at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, N.M.

Canright experiments with lasers

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — It is not everyday that someone gets to play with lasers at work.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jared Canright does not play with the widely owned pocket laser pointers used to irritate the family cat.

He conducts high voltage experiments and works with high-powered lasers that can blind instantaneously.

"Initially all of the safety precautions were pretty intimidating," he said.

As an intern at the Air Force Research Lab at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., he is researching plasma electrode phenomena.

"What we're trying to do is to control gas switches with laser triggering," Canright said. "What it is, is you have two electrodes, high voltages, separated... with some intermediary gas be it air, argon... the idea is to fire a laser between them to try and trigger a spark."

The project aims to fully characterize the laser usage depending on the laser, voltage, gas or electrode type and know whether or not the switch will work

Other details about the experiment and its usage are classified.

Canright is double majoring

in physics and electrical engineering with a minor in math.

He decided on a physics major while still in high school, after taking a mathematical proofs class at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks.

"I learned I don't really play well with mathematical theories and that math, pure math wasn't something that I wanted to pursue," Canright said. "However, I decided I still wanted to do something that was still extremely math intensive and physics is the next best thing after that."

At school, he has researched

nenfeld said.

Sonnenfeld also praised Canright's course load of 20 hours a semester.

Canright is thankful to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Program for assisting him with his education costs so that he is able to take additional hours.

"I probably would not have been able to double major in electrical engineering without that," he said. "I definitely appreciate it."

Canright performed duties typical of a graduate student as a grader for Physics 121 and

Initially all of the safety precautions were pretty intimidating."

— Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jared Canright

atmospheric physics, which studies the formation of tropical storms.

New Mexico Tech announced the 2015-2016 Macey Scholarships May 27, the university's top academic award for undergraduates, specifically upper classmen. Canright was one of five chosen, and the only junior recognized.

Recipients receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

In a media release from the university, NMT physics professor Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld complemented Canright as a top student and for his fascination and passion in the physics field.

"He is academically brilliant, he leads by example and without arrogance, he is industrious, enthusiastic, nerdy as heck (but still able to talk to real people), and has an offbeat indomitable spirit," Son-

later as an instructor and tutor for that class and Physics 221 his freshman year.

He also serves as president of the physics club.

Canright hopes to go to graduate school after he earns his bachelor's degree from NMT and would like to continue research in the physics field either through industry or academia.

He said a doctorate is typically required to be considered for a job in a laboratory.

"I haven't exactly decided what I want to do when I grow up, in terms of skills I want to go in. So, we shall see," Canright said.

He admits that he was not keen on conducting experiments in his younger days, but finds excitement in working in the lab environment.

Jared Canright's parents are Zachary and Carol Canright.

CENTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

assist with the flow of patients through the emergency area.

The project will create a covered ambulance entrance that can accommodate multiple ambulances at one time. Ambulance services will also be added for MCNDH inter-facility transports

Prior to MCNDH acquiring the hospital, the emergency room saw an average of 1,100 patients per month.

The number of patients has since increased to 1,300-1,400 per month.

"There's been an increased patient count and having recognized that, I think it's important to expand that area and through the appropriations the National Council has given MCNDH the goal is to see patients in a more timely fashion instead of having to wait a tremendous amount of time," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said.

MCNMC has implemented a fast track emergency care service Monday-Friday, 3-11 p.m. to care for lower acuity patients to allow existing emergency space to care for critical care patients. The facility plans to expand the fast track service in the future.

Additional nurses and a provider have been added to the facility for the fast track service and to meet the rise in patient numbers.

MCNDH strives to expand access to healthcare in the communities it serves and set a high standard in patient care. At MCNDH, your health is our priority.

For more information about MCNDH visit: www. creekhealth.org.





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FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tribal Complex.

Festival volunteer and Okfuskee Indian Community Track Team coach Melissa Culley said the Junior Olympics had a good number of participants and spectators this year.

The team has competed for 30 years and brought 50 children to participate in the event.

Culley said for her, the Junior Olympics is about the children being happy.

"Overall it is about the kids, the spirit of them. They are so happy and smiley all day long. They just want to be around kids," Culley said. "I see their face lights up whether they win or lose, they are happy and that says it all to me, the smile on their face."

Smiles and squeals abounded at the omniplex. The Children's Fun Fair teamed with youth running from ride to ride. The fun fair featured bounce houses, rides and obstacle course style inflatables.

Meanwhile, in downtown Okmulgee, the MCN Cultural Center and Archives Department hosted the two-day Council House Art and Food Market.

"We started this really to kind of celebrate our artists, Muscogee artists, and it has grown into this art and food market," CCA Special Projects Coordinator Chris Azbell said.

This year, CCA added an art show into the mix.

Non-staff judges selected winners for three categories: Best Myskoke Artist went to Harry Beaver for a carved shell titled 'A Kingfisher's Catch,' Best of Show was awarded to Scott Robert for his pottery piece 'Sacred Path' and the Judge's Choice was Randy Kemp with a mixed media print titled 'Lost Buffalo.'

As the Art and Food Market

wrapped up day two, the Friday night entertainment line up started with Goldwing Express, followed by Little Texas and Sawyer Brown.

As the sun rose on day three of the Festival June 27, runners stretched for the 5K Run/Walk. There were 208 participants ranging from under one-year to 90-years-old.

Brandon Payne of Henryetta finished the 5K first, Jordan Tuttle of Bristow finished second and Aaron Hannah of Siloam Springs, Ark., finished third.

The Festival Parade is a favorite with Festival-goers. The parade MCs this year were MCN Public Relations Manager Selina Jayne-Dornan and comedian Chance Rush.

Parade entries ranged from bikers to horse riders, princesses to veterans and marching bands to political candidates.

Big Chief and Murder Nova, from the Discovery Channel TV show 'The Street Outlaws,' also rode in the parade. They were on-hand in the afternoon at the Mvskoke Dome to sign autographs and meet fans.

As the evening approached, the softball tournament continued and the musical line up started with Smiling Vic.

The Canadian three-man group, A Tribe Called Red mixed electronica with powwow music.

The headlining acts for Saturday were the Commodores followed by Kool and the Gang. Even with the new parking lot at the omniplex, there was still not enough room for the mass amount of Festival attendees.

The MCN Transit Department shuttled people from the tribal complex to the omniplex.

The Festival wound down Sunday, June 28 with the completion of the softball tournaments.

Volunteers make Festival a success

Tourism department credits workers for important role

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said the 2015 MCN Festival shattered past attendance records.

With the tournaments, children's fun fair, food vendors, fireworks and entertainment, things behind the scenes help make Festival a success.

Throughout the three-day event, several people wearing blue Festival shirts help run the show.

"Our Festival does not move without our volunteers," MCN Department of Tourism and Recreation Office Manager Ryan Logan said. "They do so much and they are such an important part of the Festival."

Among their many duties, volunteers: drive golf carts for festival patrons, keep score at the various tournaments and watch the omniplex to ensure vehicles do not enter unauthorized areas at unauthorized times.

While some worked a certain amount of hours this year, others went beyond the call of duty and stayed as long as they could.

"A lot of the volunteers wanted to help as much as possible," TR Director Will Lowe said.

"Some of them did work over their hours so they could help keep things moving."

Volunteers also make sure the entertainment is happy. Musicians typically request that certain areas are setup to make them comfortable before performing.

They can change their minds about how this is arranged at the drop of a hat.

The volunteers did what they had to do to keep things moving, washing and ironing clothes, changing dressing room locations, all in a timely fashion

"Some of the entertainment had things that they needed done before they went on to perform their shows," Logan said. "The volunteers did a lot for the entertainment to keep them happy and so that they will be ready to put on the show for the patrons."

So while you enjoy everything at the Festival, please remember and appreciate the volunteers.

"I, or we, cannot thank the volunteers enough for what they do during Festival weekend," Lowe said. "Our department cannot make this happen without the volunteers. They sit out in the 100 degree weather helping us and being there for us because, like us, they want to do everything to help all the people have a great time at the Festival."

WE ARE MVSKOKE

"We invite everyone to experience the Muscogee (Creek) culture and be a part of our family."

-MCN Tourism and Recreation Director Will Lowe

Kyle Martin

Nineteen members of the Long family traveled from other parts of Oklahoma and out of state to make the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival a part of their family reunion activities.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kyle Martin made the hope skip and jump from Morris, Okla.

"We just make a big weekend out of it," Kyle said.

It was the family's first time to attend the stompdance. He was excited to share his Mvskoke heritage with his non-Native family members.

"We've got family members from out of state that's never seen it so we wanted to bring them down and show them a stompdance and Indian culture," Kyle said. To him, family is a huge part of being

Muscogee (Creek).

"It's just family. We all kind of stick together and help each other out," Kyle said.

A glimpse of the 2015 MCN Festival by: Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator



Pat Adamson

Choctaw Nation citizen Pat Adamson soaked up the sun as she watched her four grandchildren play at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Fun Fair.

"I live here in Okmulgee and I come every year," she said.

Pat has attended the Festival for seven years, and has every intention of bringing the grand children back next year. "I like the rides for the kids. That's the main reason I come, to take the grand-kids," Pat said.



Under the shade of the tent, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaliq Jones and his grandfather hid from the flaming rays of the sun, planning what Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival event they would go to next.

This was the 11-year-old's second time to come to the Festival.

Muscogee (Creek) heritage four years ago, and want to absorb everything Mvskoke to make up for lost time.

"Two years ago we came and it was great. There was a lot of Native American spirit around, like atmosphere," Kaliq said. "We came back to get that again."

His favorite part of the Festival are the jewelry displays.



The Baldwins

It was Cherokee Nation citizen Cadee Baldwin's first time running in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival, but not her first 5K event.

The run was a family affair, with her mother Amber, her father John and her 71-year-old grandfather.

"We're all in the diabetes prevention walking program," Amber said.

The family received bonus points through the MCN Walking Program for running in the event.

Amber said everyone involved in the Festival had been very welcoming.

The family is proud to be Cherokee.
"I'm very proud of my heritage," Amber



Adam Thomas Jr.

Known as JR to most, Muscogee (Creek) citizen Adam Thomas Jr. gazed at gathers, preparing for the stompdance.

He has been coming to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival all of his life. His mother was a Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

JR used to work for MCN during the Claude Cox administration, and helped build the rodeo arena.

"That's a long time ago," JR said. JR is a member of Arbeka Ceremonial Ground, and went to Festival to enjoy himself. He planned to attend all festivi-

ties for the weekend.
"Be proud. Be Creek," JR said.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

The power of determination

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Leslie Powell's amazing educational journey

Julie Moss, M.A. CMN Adjunct Instructor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — When one decides to make a crucial decision affecting the lives of the most difficult, especially for those taking a non-traditional path. This story is one that gives insight into a Native family and professional career. program in education. My observation of her decision college, and through her story Muscogee (Mvskoke) people. we are able to see the promise of a better future in both.

earn a doctorate so she can continue to make an impact on her community.

Leslie's sheer determination

I know that Leslie is a cultural and subsequent journey, as her person, and attending CMN instructor, intertwines with the has given her the opportunity growth and development of a to interact with Native people Native American community from all backgrounds, including

"This has made me, as a student, to feel I could be Once all her children were someone. I was free to be myself, grown and raised, Leslie Powell so I could openly express my

This has made me, as a student, to feel I could be someone. I was free to be myself, so I could openly express my ideas instead of being silent."

- Muscogee (Creek) citizen **Leslie Powell**

high school.

at the College of the Muscogee heritage," Leslie said Nation. The newly formed tribal on the campus of Oklahoma to me by many students State University Institute that they feel at home at the of Technology (OSUIT) in college, and they have a sense Okmulgee, Okla. At the time, of belonging they have not CMN operated under the previously experienced in an auspices of OSUIT, until their educational setting. own campus was built. As students walk in and out

Powell walked into during the administration building, they fall 2006 was my first teaching walk by clan symbol designs, assignment at the college. It Muscogee (Creek) language was very clear that Leslie was signage and architectural excited to learn as she was designs representative of the first student in the room, Muscogee (Creek) heritage. pulling her wheeled backpack They are filled with a sense of and carefully laying out her belonging and pride in their materials in preparation for Native heritage. class. Her positive energy the semester.

That night, I began the class by reach her educational goals. giving each student a chance to speak, to introduce themselves one of the premier tribal college or say anything that might be programs and campuses in the on their mind as an icebreaker country, and is filled with great activity. The idea is to set the success stories on many levels. students' mind at ease by saying why they are taking the class and education for the Muscogee and what they hope to learn.

I've decided it is my time. I knew it was time for me to get a most amazing and beautiful my education," Leslie said as she story and testament to students made her introduction.

Speaking on conversations

effort Leslie made to be a sound and accomplish her goals. She Mvskoke people have through her hopes and dreams are to and its students.

led her to complete a tribal services degree as the first female graduate from CMN, two years after entering my class. This paved the way for many, the first steps are often her to later earn a bachelor's and master's degree, and she was immediately employed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health. I am student who chose to make a humbled and delighted that life-changing decision for her she is now enrolled in a Ph.D.

made the difficult decision to ideas instead of being silent.

further her education beyond Just the feeling of being with my own American Indian people Her dedication was evident and being of the Muscogee as she walked into the first (Creek) tribe, it gave me a night of a grant writing class renewed sense of pride in my This sentiment is not unique college was holding classes to Leslie, it has been expressed

The grant writing course Ms. of the entryway of the main

I have seen the rise of CMN and anticipation for the class from its humble beginnings, as permeated the room that night it has directly paralleled that of and was constant throughout Leslie Powell's journey, working tirelessly on assignments to

CMN has now grown to be It is not only a center of learning (Creek) citizens and the MCN "Now that my kids are grown, community, but it is a point of great pride for the tribe as like Leslie.

Both of these journeys for she had with her children, the CMN and for Leslie Powell "I have done every kind have been amazing and truly of job. I've mopped floors, inspiring. At the end of each cleaned restrooms and flipped term, I send a letter to each hamburgers... and if you don't student encouraging them to want that for yourself, you need set, and then work toward to go out and get an education." their goals each and every day. I was truly impressed by the It is my sincere hope that these letters give my students the role model for her children, inspiration to persevere, as the is a strong believer in giving many generations, and leave a back to her community, and legacy that includes the college

ECHO ANNUAL CELE-**BRATION SET JULY 25**

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The ECHO Native American widows support group has set a third annual celebration for July 25 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Elderly Nutrition Center in Okmulgee.

For more information call Nancy Deere at: 918-756-4272.

CMCA GATHERING SET FOR AUG. 1

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an annual gathering for Aug. 1 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia, Ave, Riverside CA, 92503.

For more information contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554 or jeannars@yahoo.com.

TCIC YOUTH CAMP SET FOR AUG. 3-8

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a weeklong youth ages 7-13 camp for Aug. 3-8. The camp will end with a parent day cookout. Come join and make new friends.

Participants must live within TCIC boundaries and parents/ guardians should be a TCIC member. If they are not, they may join.

The deadline to sign up is July 17 at 5 p.m. For more information call: 918-298-2464.

More details will be available in July.

MCN Southern Regional office schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for July.

July 21, 28

Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

July 29

Social Services along with **Employment and Training** Closed

For more information call: 405-452-1100.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR SEPT. 7

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Marshall family reunion is set for Sept. 7 from 12-3 p.m. at Nichols Park in Henryetta.

Bring a door prize and picnic items. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served.

For more information, call Judy Montiel at: 918-752-5602.

MNN DEADLINES

Aug. 1 — July 24

Aug. 15 — Aug. 7

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8

Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

0ct. 15 - 0ct. 7Nov. 1 - 0ct. 23

Nov. 15 — Nov. 6

Dec. 1 - Nov. 20

Dec. 15 — Dec. 7

Jan. 1, 2015 — Dec. 21



Eufaula Dorm now accepting applications

Eufaula Dorm/Media Release

EUFAULA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula Dormitory is now accepting applications and enrollment dates for approved students will be Aug. 11-12 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

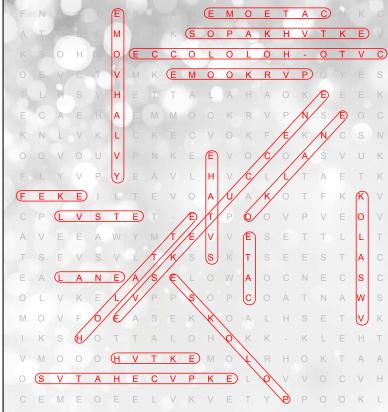
Classes begin Aug. 13 and openings are available for 1st-12th grade students.

New students are required to have a: CDIB card, state certified birth certificate, Social Security card, updated immunization record, physical, transcript/report cards from the previous school year and an insurance card (front and back copy), Medicaid or Sooner Care card.

Parents of returning students must call for an enrollment packet. It is mandatory for grades 6-12 to have a physical prior to enrolling if they are planning to participate in any school activity or sport.

For more information write: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula Dormitory, 716 Swadley Drive, Eufaula, OK 74432 or call the dorm at: 1-800-896-3181 or 918-689-2522.

Solution to the July I word search



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WETUMKA HEAD START

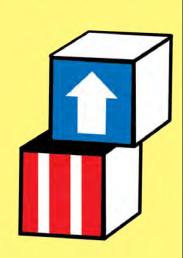
is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirements for the program will include:

- Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st
- Income Verification (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)
- Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Child's medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.











In addition to photos from the 'Muscogee Nation News' staff, volunteer photographers provided extended professional photo coverage of the 41st annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival. The MNN staff would like to recognize and say 'MVTO' to:

RIC DENNEY
JEANNIE EDWARDS

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar opens at RSC

Ceremony held for first portion of Buffet themed expansion

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — A ribboncutting ceremony was held July 2 for the 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar at River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, in what Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger called a 'pre-game meal' for RSC development along the Arkansas River.

"We are being recognized for what we are doing economically," Tiger said. "We are creating more and more jobs for our citizens with this expansion."

The event marks the first official finished a piece of the \$329 million Margaritaville themed project at RSC.

"It's the first time everyone will get a glimpse of what to expect when the rest of our Margaritaville at River Spirit expansion opens," RSC General Manager Jerry Floyd said.

Somewhere - 2



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (right) and River Spirit Casino General Manager Jerry Floyd (left) cut a ribbon July 2 to officially open the new 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar located within RSC in Tulsa, Okla.



Kyia Monahwee/Intern

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger gave an update on MCN July 10 during the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly session at The Grand Casino Hotel and Resort in Shawnee, Okla.

Housing, ICWA resolutions passed during Five Tribes session

Tiger gives update on MCN to Inter-Tribal Council

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter **Sterling Cosper**/MNN Editor

SHAWNEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes was held July 9-10, at The Grand Casino Hotel Resort in Shawnee.

Seminole Nation hosted the event.

During the general session July 10, updates were given by: Oklahoma Native Liaison Chris Benge; Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office, Acting Director Eddie Streater and Indian Health Service, Area Director Kevin Meeks, on their respective

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief George Tiger also gave an update on MCN along with the other ITC leaders about their respective Nations.

He talked about the College of Muscogee Nation adding a bookstore to their institution and the annual MCN Festival held in June.

"All the reports that we received from our Tourism and Recreation Department, it was the biggest and best Festival we have ever

had," Tiger said. "By counts, over the three day period, we had over 55,000 people that came to our

Festival."

Tiger also spoke about the new MRI building at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee and the new 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar at MCN River Spirit Casino in

"That is one of the

ITC-3

Committee, bill, passage and introduction types explained

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Do you ever wonder how something becomes law at Muscogee (Creek) Nation or how legislation gets to the MCN National Council meetings?

Council Speaker Thomas Yahola explained the process during a June 19 informative

The life of MCN legislation: from idea to law

meeting for citizens living outside the MCN jurisdiction.

In order to understand the process since the federally implemented self-determination period, we must start at the beginning. The Council is one of the three branches of government as established by the 1979 MCN Constitution.

The 16-member body is made of two elected representatives

from each of the eight tribal districts.

Each representative also sits on one of three sub-committees: the Health, Education and Welfare Committee (HEW); the Land, Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation Committee (LNC) and the Business, Finance and Justice Committee (BFJ).

HEW is more than health and education as the name implies.

It also oversees certain process involving citizen services such as social services pertaining to housing, the Election Board, Veterans Affairs, Emergency Management, the Citizenship Board and the chartered communities.

LNC deals with matters such as historic and cultural

Legislation - 2

Schedule changed for 2015 Candidate Forum

Principal chief portion moved to 10 a.m.

Mvskoke Media/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Media will host the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Candidate Forum Saturday, Aug. 15 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

The principal chief portion has been rescheduled to 10 a.m. since incumbent MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks is running unopposed, which affords him an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.

Refreshments will be provided during the event.

The forum is a service provided to Muscogee (Creek) citizens to learn more about the individuals they will be voting for and offers an opportunity for principal chief candidates to inform citizens of what qualities, experience and ideas they will bring to the position if elected.

Candidates will respond to questions in rotating order as directed by the moderator. Candidates will have two minutes to respond to each question.

Citizens will have the opportunity to submit questions for consideration to MCN Media Coordinator Jessica McBride at: jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov until Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 5 p.m.

WHAT: 2015 MCN Principal Chief Candidate

WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Mvskoke Dome, 555 Tank Farm Road, Okmulgee, OK.

Pursuit of stolen vehicle damages MCN property

Community center taking steps to repair

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

DEWAR, Okla. — Members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Dewar Indian Community Center are contemplating how to deal with damages caused to their property by a high-speed pursuit on the evening of June 24 in

Pursuit - 4

LEGISLATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

preservation and physical land, to those including and similar to environmental services as well as churches, ceremonial grounds, transportation, wildlife, housing construction and more.

Some of the affairs BFJ is involved in are: budget approvals, business development, gaming management, the Trade and Commerce Authority, Lighthorse Tribal Police Department and the Attorney General's Office.

The speaker makes sure legislation is composed properly. If any corrections need to be made, the speaker makes notes and returns it to the submitting party.

Any Muscogee (Creek) citizen or MCN program/department can propose legislation to a representative for sponsorship.

Proposals from MCN programs or departments under leadership of the executive branch must be accompanied by a cover letter from the principal chief before reaching the representative.

Once the speaker approves the bill, it is assigned a legislation number, which is titled by the fiscal year and the sequence in which it is proposed. An example is a bill proposed in FY 2011 that is the 20th bill of that year would be NCA, NCR or TR 11-020.

A tribal resolution (TR) is

a statement of the Nation and a National Council resolution (NCR) is a statement of the Council. A National Council Amendment (NCA) is a law. Yahola said NCAs are mostly appropriations.

After the speaker sends the bill to a clerk to forward to the appropriate committee chairperson, it is placed on the committee meeting agenda. The committee discusses the bill and makes any changes they deem necessary, known as amendments.

"The public is invited to be there for all the discussion. So, it is an open meeting," Yahola said. "Other Council members who are not committee members are given a time for their input."

The planning session is where the entire Council meets and votes on what will be on the agenda for the official monthly Council meeting.

The next step for legislation approval is a signature by the principal chief. Once it is sent to the chief's office, three things can happen: the chief signs the bill and it becomes law, the chief doesn't sign it and it becomes law after 10 days or the chief vetoes the bill.

If the bill is vetoed, it will be returned to the Council to be voted on again. In order for the veto to be overridden and the bill enacted as law, two-thirds of the Council has to vote in favor of it.

For more information, contact the Council at: 918-758-1410.

Author 'blessed' to tell Phillip Coon story



Muscogee (Creek) veteran and survivor of the World War II Bataan Death March, Phillip Coon

Biography on Bataan Death March survivor completed

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What was it like to tell the story of a man who survived the World

War II Bataan Death March? According to author and publisher Sherry Kast, parts of completing 'A Soldier's Silent Prayer' were difficult and parts were not because, "he was very easy to

Kast said, when attended she the Women's College World Series for softball where the

work with."

University of Oklahoma was competing. The late Muscogee (Creek) veteran Phillip Coon was honored during the game.

"Just absolutely amazed by his story and everybody was just cheering and they wouldn't stop cheering and standing for him," she said. "Even later, when he moved through the crowd, people would just stand up and cheer as he walked past them. I just decided, I'm going to write his story."

ing, was history.

The rest, in a manner of speak-

"I made contact with his son, Michael," she said. "Two years

later, we've got the book." Coon was one of the survivors of a march to a Japanese prison camp after U.S. forces were defeated in the Philippines during the early days of World War II in

American and Filipino prisoners-of-war were forced to march 65 miles in tropical heat

ted elements for his biography, which sets it apart from that of others she has written.

"I think in my research, more than anything is that I got information about his childhood. Whereas, a lot of the other stories that I researched started when he was at school and when he went off to war," Kast said.

Hearing Coon recall the memories of brutality was not easy for her.

"Some of the soldiers in their minds, they were going crazy," Kast said. "They were dying and Phillip looked back in history and his ancestors and he would remember the songs from the ceremonial grounds when he was a little boy and Christian songs that would run through his mind as he went through the death march."

Coon passed away June 23, 2014 at the age of 95.

Kast owns the small publishing house, Kast Publishing LLC, so she said printing the book was much easier.

"It took about a year," she said. "Every evening. It was a pretty quick turn-around, but it was every evening to make sure that it happened."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council unanimously approved NCA 14-070 during the May 17, 2014 regular session, appropriating \$7,500 to Kast Publishing to fund the biography.

Now that the book is available, Kast is working to sell it.

"They can go to Amazon and order it on Amazon. It's available in paper-

It all started, CIn his story of ultimate forgiveness, it's even back and it's also available for Kindle (the e-book reader service), they can order it through

> Amazon. If they have any questions they can also go to my website: KastPublishing.com."

> She was pleased to make Coon's story available.

"He went through such dark

with brutal treatment from the

changed my life"

— Sherry Kast

author of 'A Soldier's Silent Prayer'

Japanese guards. Upon completing the trek, Coon was imprisoned and forced into slave labor by his captors.

"I interviewed him after he went to Japan, 70 years later," Kast said. "He came full circle and there was forgiveness for the Japanese people that had stole his youth while he was in the war."

Kast feels her interviews net-

Kast plans several signings and a tour to promote sales.

days," Kast said. "He depended on God to get him through those days. He depended on his culture, his ancestors. In his story of ultimate forgiveness, it's even changed my life."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council unanimously approved NCA 14-070 during the May 17, 2014 regular session, appropriating \$7,500 to Kast Publishing to fund 'A Soldier's Silent Prayer.'

Muscogee (Creek) veteran Phillip Coon was a survivor of the Bataan Death March, the 65 mile trek to a Japanese prison camp after U.S. forces were defeated in the Philippines during the early days of World War II in 1942.

SOMEWHERE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The island themed bar is located in the center of RSC, where it replaced the former Mystic River Lounge.

"We are going to let you walk into the River Spirit Casino, walk into its 5 o'Clock Somewhere and escape your reality," Floyd said.

It is a total of 5,000 square feet and is the largest 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar in the United

"This is a great start to the various phases of our new building and rebranding of our casino," Tiger said. "It is an exciting time at Muscogee (Creek) Nation."

Grand opening festivities included live music by In10City, Margaritaville stilt walkers and the first 300 guests received a free t-shirt.

Guests were also eligible to

register to win a weeklong trip for two to Riu Palace Peninsula, an all-inclusive resort in Cancun, Mexico.

"We are going to have all kinds of special events going on," Floyd said. "This will not be the only time. There will always be something for our guests."

This is the next milestone in the River Spirit Phase II construction project.

"We got a lot of excitement and this is to help build the excitement for the future," Floyd

The resort will feature: a 27-story hotel, 30,000 square foot convention and meeting venue, several other dining and beverage establishments, an entertainment venue, new parking structure and a new pool deck and riverfront entertainment area.

The casino and restaurants are set to open in late fall 2016, with the theater and the hotel tower following in the winter.

MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND

arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER DARREN DELAUNE

ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov



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ITC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

phases to our big project, Margaritaville," Tiger said. "We are expecting to open that, Labor Day weekend next year."

Tiger said the project has provided nearly 900 jobs.

During the session, ITC passed the following resolutions unanimously:

• Resolution 15-19: Reaffirming the position of ITC in opposition of and communicating the discriminatory acts for the U.S. Congress enacted on Aug. 4, 1947; the effects of the act still subject the members of the tribal governments to the irreversible loss of land.

The mentioned legislation, also known as the 47 Act, affects the restricted land of the FCT and allows said land to be adversely possessed. This means another party can seize control and title of land they do not own by 'squatting' on or using it for 15 years.

The 47 Act stipulates that restricted land falls under Oklahoma state jurisdiction, and can be lost to adverse possession.

The title of trust land is held by the U.S. first, for the benefit of the individual or entity listed on the title document.

Like trust land, restricted land is not taxed. However, the individual and not the U.S. government holds title.

• Resolution 15-20: Supporting clarifying language for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Programs in the reauthorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century (MAP-21) Act.

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

website, the Federal Transit Administration announced the availability of approximately \$5 million in funding provided by the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program.

The primary purpose of these competitively selected grants is to support planning, capital and, in limited circumstances, operating assistance for tribal public transit services.

• Resolution 15-21: To preserve the Universal Service Fund Lifeline and Link Up Programs.

According to the Federal Communications Commission website, Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income subscribers to help ensure that they can connect to the nation's communication networks, find jobs, access health care services, connect with family and their children's schools and call for help in an emergency.

The Link Up program provides qualified residents of federally recognized tribal lands funds to pay the activation fee or installation charges for Lifeline services.

• Resolution 15-22: Regarding indirect cost rate negotiation changes.

Accountingcoach.com defines an indirect cost as an expense that is not directly traceable to a department, product, activity, customer, etc. As a result, indirect costs and expenses are often allocated to the department, product, etc.

For example, a manufacturing department that molds plastic has some costs that are directly traceable to it, such as the wages and fringe benefits of the direct labor working exclusively in that department.

However, the heat for the entire building appears only on one utility bill. The heating bill is an indirect cost to the molding department. Generally it will be assigned to all departments based on the number of square feet each department occupies.

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior website, an indirect cost rate is a tool for determining the proportion of indirect costs each program should bear.

An indirect cost negotiation agreement is a document that formalizes the indirect cost rate negotiation process.

• Resolution 15-23: In support of the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act.

According to an article by 'Indian Country Today Media Network,' The NATIVE Act was created to, "enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between federal tourism assets and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States."

The act would, among other things, get federal agencies like the Departments of Commerce and Interior to consult with Indian tribes and the Native American community on their inclusion in federal tourism activities.

• Resolution 15-24: Endorsing and supporting the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute for Justice Violence Against Indian Women National Baseline Study.

According to the National Institute of Justice website, the NBS is the first nationally representative study of American Indian and Alaska Native women living in Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages.

AI and AN women will be interviewed to assess their experiences with violence and victimization, health and wellness, community crime, service needs, and help seeking behaviors and outcomes, as well as their opinions about public cafety.

• Resolution 15-25: In support of the Indian Child Welfare Act (25 CFR 23) and opposing the actions of parties to weaken and dilute ICWA in its present form.

ICWA is a federal law that Congress passed in 1978, which mandates that Native foster and adoption homes are given precedent when finding a place for Native children in the system, to ensure they are raised in tribal culture.

A ruling in the federal court case known to the public as 'Baby Veronica,' turned out in favor of a non-Native family who had adopted a baby eligible for citizenship with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma through her father, CN citizen Dusten Brown.

The defense in the court case stated that the father of the child mistakenly signed away his parental rights to the birth mother, unaware that the child was going to be adopted.

The ruling has raised concerns over the legal precedent set by this case and how it will affect the potency of ICWA in the future.

• Resolution 15-26: In support of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the full exercise of tribal court civil jurisdiction in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to Indianz.com, Dollar General operates a store on trust land within the tribe's reservation. The tribe issued a license to the business, whose manager is accused of sexually assaulting a minor who was working there as part of a youth training program.

The minor's parents sued Dollar General and the manager in tribal court seeking at least \$2.5 million in damages. The company, as a non-Indian entity, refused to submit to the court's jurisdiction.

Generally, tribes can't exercise authority over non-Indians but the Supreme Court decision in Montana v. U.S. lays out two exceptions. One for 'consensual relationships' and another for activities that threaten the political integrity, economic security or the health or welfare of a tribe.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals determined that the 'consensual relationships' exception applied to Dollar General.

The company asked the Supreme Court to overturn the decision in June 2014.

- Resolution 15-27: To support the nominations of Catherine Forman-Gray, Cherokee Nation citizen to the U.S. Marshals Museum Board of Directors.
- Resolution 15-28: Regarding the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website, NAHASDA reorganized the system of housing assistance provided to Native Americans through HUD by eliminating several separate programs of assistance and replacing them with a block grant program.

The Choctaw Nation is scheduled to host the next quarterly session Oct. 8-9.



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) Healthy Research Participants Needed



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). \$200 compensation (\$100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective
Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that
contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to
developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals
at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is conducting a University of Tulsa IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators:
Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Citizen shares personal School Clothing Program experience

Assistance available as students begin new year

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Most working class people experihardships throughout their lives. Everyday expenses often contribute to this.

For example: rent or a mortgage, utilities, buying groceries and other bills to name a few. What if you had children? With that factored in, these costs can double or triple.

The Muscogee (Creek) Na-School Clothing Program can help with this.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Jordan Brown said the program has done just that for her and her son.

"I am able to get his school clothes and with clothes and shoes nowadays being more expensive, this program helps relieve some of the stress that most families would have," Brown said.

Brown, who works and is a fulltime student, knows the pressure that a lot of families experience while trying to balance a budget.

"Having this program has helped me out financially," Brown said. "The School Clothing Program benefits all the families that they help."

SCP began taking school clothing applications May 1 from families seeking financial assistance to purchase clothing for the 2015-2016 school year and will accept them year round.

"We will be taking applications up until April 30, 2016," SCP Supervisor Robbin Hayes said.

An MCN citizenship card is required for each child and as available, whichever one of their parents or guardians who are citizens. CDIB cards will not be accepted. Applications must be completed entirely.

All children will need to provide a school verification form and this sheet is attached to the application.

Report cards will not be acepted.

"There is one difference to the school clothing application for students who are in the ninth to twelfth grade," Hayes said.

The proper school official has to verify that the child was enrolled for the previous full school year.



MNN File Photo

"We have had some situations where the student will get the money and then drop out of school," Hayes said. "The following year they will re-enroll, get the money and then drop out again."

Hayes said that the number of students that the SCP program helps increases every year.

"Last year, we helped over 11,500 children," she said. "The number goes up every year so we expect that to get higher."

Hayes wants to remind parents about the 'Release of Information' page in the application that has the two check boxes.

The page needs to be completed and one of the boxes needs to be checked.

"We have to have that page completed," she said. "If it is not completed and not one of those boxes checked, we consider that an incomplete form and it will be sent back to the applicant."

She also said that only original receipts will be accepted for the required expense reporting.

"The receipts will need to be turned back in by April 30, 2016," Hayes said. \$200 is given per child and the whole amount needs to be spent, only on their clothing.

"We cannot accept the cash that you did not spend," Hayes said. Applications are available online at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov or by calling

They can be mailed to: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK, 74447; faxed to: 918-549-2478 or emailed to: schoolclothing@mcn-nsn.gov.

"We still have a dropbox on the porch area should they need to dropit off after hours," Hayes said.

The applications can also be mailed or dropped off at the Southern Regional Office at: 333 S. Washita, Wetumka, OK 74883 and the Jenks Riverwalk Office at: 715 W. Main, Ste. D Jenks, OK 74037.

PURSUIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dewar.

Reports indicate that the Henryetta Police Department responded to a call involving a stolen white 2011 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck.

HPD began a pursuit of the stolen vehicle, which started in Henryetta and led police down SH 266 in Dewar at speeds reaching 100 miles an hour.

The truck went off the road on the east side of Dewar causing it to hit a steel fence and gate then flipping end over end.

The suspect, 30-year-old Daniel Nole was cut from the vehicle and transported to St. John's

Hospital in Tulsa by Life Flight. "We have damages to the properties here. We want to take care of that. That was my main concern," said Floyd Jones, MCN Community Research and Development Director.

CRD provides MCN communities with training and technical assistance while working to increase community participa-

The center provides lunch to Muscogee (Creek) senior citi-

zens in the community through the MCN Elderly Nutrition Program.

"I wanted to make sure we were able to serve food for our

elders," Jones said. Phil Booker, MCN Risk Management Manager was at the scene the following day accessing damages to the community

center fence and gate. "Advising Mr. Jones on what we'll do and probably what the tribe will end up needing to do to seek return on the damages," Booker said.

Booker documented the damages by taking photographs and is responsible for checking with the insurance company to see what will be covered.

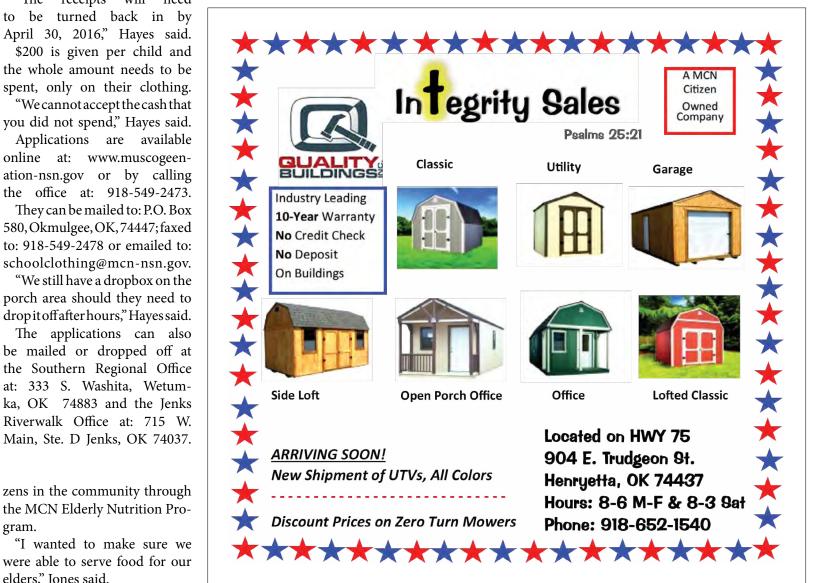
"We'll probably end up turning this over to the attorney general's office," Booker said.

Employees of MCN Housing Department came to the site to clear debris and tear down the remaining part of the gate to ensure safety.

The community plans to rebuild.

"We want to make sure it's brought back to the original flavor that it had," Jones said. "It's important to the community so it's important to us."





The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WETUMKA HEAD START

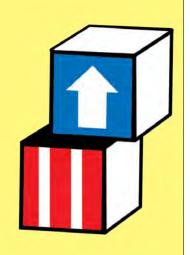
is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirements for the program will include:

- Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st
- Income Verification (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)
- Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Child's medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.





3420 W. Peak Blyd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net

BETTY JO BEN

WELEETKA, Okla. — Betty Jo Ben was born April 20, 1944 in Tahlequah to Gladys Barnett and Wm. Haskell Brown. She is a full-blood citizen of Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Betty Jo lived most of her life in Weleetka.

She lived with her one and only son and wife and beautiful grandchildren.

Betty had been honored by Christ Community Church of Weleetka. She liked watching the Sooners and the Oklahoma City Thunder with her grandchildren, she loved going to watch her grandchildren play sports and also loved painting and going to church to learn about Jesus Christ.

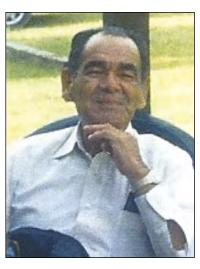
Betty Jo began her spiritual journey July 7, 2015.

Proceeding Betty in death is her: husband, Willy Ben; brother, James Maye's; father, Haskell Brown; mother, Gladys Barnett and grandson Terrance Rae Marshall.

She is survived by her: son and daughter Sonny and Tishanne Marshall; grandsons, Charles Marshall, Seth Marshall, Terrance Marshall and Chandler Marshall and granddaughter, Raeanne Marshall of Weleetka. Prayer services were set for July 10 at the Christ Community Church of Weleetka. Betty will feel comfort in knowing the Lord and savior and that we will see each other again. Services are under the direction of Donnie Williamson and Sparden Funeral Home.

-Mvto, the Marshall family.

WALTER BERRYHILL



OKLAHOMA CITY — Walter Sammie Berryhill, a resident of Oklahoma City and former Henryetta area resident, passed away Saturday, June 20, 2015 in Oklahoma City at the age of 85. Walter was born Jan. 6, 1930 in Okmulgee to John Berryhill and Amy Randall Berryhill.

Walter grew up around Henryetta and attended Henryetta Public Schools. As a teenager, Walter joined the U.S. Army and faithfully served from 1947-1953.

Walter held a number of jobs but was a successful businessman with all of them, including his considerable experience with real estate.

He was a member of the South Lindsey Baptist Church in Oklahoma City for approximately 25 years. Walter maintained an extremely active lifestyle. He enjoyed playing golf, served as the assistant baseball coach at Barnes Elementary School in Midwest City, and he exercised daily.

He is preceded in death by his: mother and father; brothers, Richard Berryhill and Almer Berryhill and four sisters, Amy Sue Berryhill, Mary Coon, Christine Harjo and Lucille

Walter is survived by his: sister, Dicey Barnett of Henryetta;

special friend, Rowena Williford of Oklahoma City; a host of nieces and nephews as well as a strong church family and many other extended family and good

Viewing for Walter was held at Integrity Funeral Service June 22. A wake service was held at Integrity Chapel with Rev. Tim Lowe and Rev. Wallace Gambler officiating.

Funeral services for Walter were held at Integrity Chapel June 24 with Rev. Jerry Connell and Rev. Wallace Gambler officiating. Internment followed at Berryhill Family Cemetery in Henryetta under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

ELOUISE HARJO



OKMULGEE, Okla. — After a long battle with cancer, Elouise Edwina Harjo passed from this life July 3, 2015 at her home surrounded by her family at the age

She was born Jan. 20, 1941 to Amos Harjo Sr. and Louise Mc-Cosar Harjo Herrod in Holden-

She was raised five miles north of Calvin over the old bridge near Tookparfka Baptist Church and later moved to Holdenville. She was known to many family and friends as Wana and was the oldest of 13 kids.

One of her biggest memories as a nurse was the day her and her co-worker and friend, Paula closed the doors at the Wetumka General Hospital for the last time, as it never re-opened again. She worked there for over 23 years of her life.

Preceding her in death are her: parents, step-father, Robert Herrod; sisters, Katie Kincaid and Gladysteen Herrod and brothers, Jimmy Frank Harjo, Lewis Wayne Harjo, and Richard Leon Herrod.

Surviving family are her: daughter, Karen Dawn Fish and husband Anthony of Holdenville; her one and only grandchild that brought great happiness and laughter to her, Dakota Matthew Fish of Holdenville; sisters, Zula Herrod of Ada, Minnie Herrod of Wetumka, Frances Herrod of Ada, Leona Herrod and Estelle Herrod of Calvin; brothers, Amos Harjo Jr. of Cyril and John Herrod of Ada; 27 nieces and nephews, 40 great-nieces and nephews and 17 great-great-nieces and nephews along with many cousins and friends.

Funeral services were held July 7 with Rev. Eddie Gooden officiating.

Pallbearers were: Anthony Fish, Mitchell Harjo, Eric Harjo, Joshua Harrison, Robert Harrison and Nathan Herrod. Flower girls were her nieces.

Interment was at the Herrod Family Cemetery in Calvin. Services are under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville.

Online condolences to the family can be made at: www. phillipsfuneralservice.com.

An Online Guestbook is available at: www.PhillipsFuneralService.com.

MARGIE PHILPOTT

JOPLIN, Mo. — Margie Philpott was born Jan. 19, 1926 to Alvin Hodge Orcutt and Beatrice Lillian Olson in Tulsa, Okla. She passed early Monday morning, July 20, 2015, in Joplin. Margie married Leonard Philpott in 1943 and moved to Fairland, Okla.

They had four children and had a long and happy marriage until Leonard's passing in 1988. She dedicated her life to her husband and children.

She raised her children to go for what they want and that nothing is out of their reach.

Margie is preceded in death by her: parents, husband and daughter, Patricia Ford.

She is survived by her: daughters, Donna Smith and husband, Tim of Fairland and Margie Mc-Cutcheon and husband, Terry of Foster, Okla.; son, Bill Philpott and wife, Karen of Kimberling City; sisters, Fronnie Hampton of Jay, Okla., and Nancy of Fort Worth, Texas, along with 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

The family received friends July 22 at Brown-Winters Funeral Home Chapel in Fairland.

Graveside services Thursday, July 23 at Hickory Grove Cemetery with Geoff Buffalo officiating. Casketbearers were: David Philpott, Steve Cline, Danny D. Dover, Calvin Garrett and Tony Poe.

Scholarship Foundation swings for education

Scholarship Foundation/Release

CHECOTAH, Okla. — The second annual 'Swing for Education' benefit golf tournament will be held Friday, Sept. 4 at the Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah.

The tournament was created by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program (HESFP) to raise money for scholarships to help Muscogee (Creek) students who attend post-secondary institutions.

Early registration is recommended. Teams who preregister will receive a free t-shirt. The cost to play the four-person scramble is \$400 and includes lunch, cart and green fees.

Prizes will be awarded for first-third place teams, longest drive, closest to the pin and hole-in-one.

In the event of rain cancellation, the tournament will be rescheduled for Friday, Sept.

HESFP is a non-profit organization initiated in 2013 to help advance the education of Muscogee (Creek) citizens by raising funds for scholarships. The foundation's activities are supported through donations by businesses and individuals.

All donations to the HESFP are tax deductible.

For more information about HESFP, visit: www. creeknationfoundation.org.

MNN DEADLINES

Aug. 15 — Aug. 7

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8 Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

0ct. 15 - 0ct. 7

Emvpanayv: 'One who tells a story'

Illegal aliens, the 'noshow' strikes again, Hollywood 'wannabees?'

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

According to a recent piece on the 'CBS News' website, in 2010, the famous scientist and physicist Steven Hawking friendly to humans."

He compared their potential arrival to that of Christopher Columbus' to the Americas, "which resulted in the deaths and enslavement of many Native Americans."

to find life in outer space.

Well, bring 'em on. We got through one 'invasion,' I guess we could deal with another. According to an old and moldy joke: "Just don't make any treaties with them."

Hey, remember earlier this spring when I got my fur rubbed the wrong way when a big-shot fed was a 'no-show' on Myskoke Radio?

Well, it seems this guy, Vince last dozen years. Logan, the Interior Department Special Trustee for American Indians pulled the same stunt, this time on Capitol Hill at Disneyland-on-the-Potomac.

Logan was supposed to appear before the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee, according to Indianz.com. failed to show up and that poed committee member Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyoming).

(Whatsa matter, Vince, driver get lost again?)

Barrasso called the stunt, "unacceptable" and that it emphasized the need to get rid of the Special Trustee Office.

According to their federal website, the office is supposed Indins'. (Remember the Cobell Dome in Okmulgee. settlement and what a great job that was?)

I don't know, but I ain't seen much coming out of that office.

Senator Barrasso-more power to ya in getting rid of another layer of useless federal bureaucracy.

Actor Adam Sandler is

trying to cover his backside over the latest exploitation of Native people and culture. National media are carrying the story that his latest fiasco, 'Ridiculous Six,' Sandler claims, is 'misunderstood' and the movie is '100 percent pro-American Indian.'

Besides insulting Native said that, "alien life may not be women, elders and culture, the movie has been accused of using 'Redface' on Indian actors to make them look more Indian. That's right, just like the term 'blackface' when make-up is used to darken a person's skin.

That's from a whistleblower Hawking has joined a project that worked in the make-up department of the production. That practice is supposedly a 'no-no' since Hollywood has been blasted for doing that in films like 'The Jazz Singer' and a few others.

Currently, there are 39 federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma. Are you ready for four more?

Four groups have petitioned for federal recognition in the

The groups are the United Band of the Western Cherokee Nation in Moore; the Cheyenne Nation in Longdale; the United Chickamungwa Band in Wister; and one we've heard of, the Muscogee (Creek) Indian Freedmen Band in Moore.

(I don't know about you, but Again, at the last minute, Logan I haven't run across too many Chickamungwas lately.)

> Federal rules acknowledgement of groups desiring federal status have been undergoing some modification, so who knows whether they will make the list or not. No word on any decisions.

Elections are coming up and a large number of folks have filed for office. Remember, Mvskoke to protect and preserve Indian Media is holding forum for the assets and other financial principal chief candidates 10 wrangling on behalf of us poor a.m., Aug. 15 at the Myskoke

> "In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote."—David Foster Wallace, American contemporary author.

Later.

Man convicted in MCN District Court sought



MCN AG's Office/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Daniel Ray Hawkins was convicted Oct. 13, 2014 in Muscogee (Creek) Nation case CF-14-24, of Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance and Carrying a Firearm. At that time, he was sentenced to serve a term of three years in custody of the MCN Lighthorse Police Department.

He was convicted March 23, 2015 in MCN case CF-13-18, of one count of Aggravated Assault and one count of Battery. He was sentenced to serve a two-and-ahalf year term in the custody of Lighthorse. Up until May 25, 2015, Hawkins was held in the

McIntosh County Jail after being convicted there of Assault and Battery on a Police Officer, Assault/Battery on Deputy, Prisoner Attempting to Place Body Fluid on Government Employee and Malicious Injury to Prop-The McIntosh County Jail

made an error March 25, 2015 and released Hawkins to the streets when he finished his time there. Lighthorse was not notified of this error until June 22,

There are currently NO BOND Warrants issued through the MCN District Court. Hawkins is known to carry both knives and guns and should be considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information regarding his whereabouts are asked to contact MCN Lighthorse Police at: 918-732-7800 or their local law enforcement agency.

Daniel Ray Hawkins:

DOB: 7-23-83, HT: 5'10" WT: 200 lbs., Hair: Black — Eyes:

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MVTO

Recently, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation awarded an emergency scholarship to me to assist with paying my spring tuition at the University of Central Oklahoma/Swansea University doctorate program.

In the last year, my uncle Raydean Robison and my cousin, Deanna Robison both passed away and MCN was very prompt in assisting with those funeral expenses.

Chief Tiger caught wind of the fundraiser and made a personal donation, which helped greatly.

There are no words that can adequately express my gratitude to my tribe. I am proud to be a Muscogee (Creek) citizen and thankful for all of the old ones who came before, fighting and working to maintain our culture and our existence.

Mvto!

Claudette Robertson, Oklahoma City Independent Historian/ **Grants Consultant** Adjunct Professor, History Oklahoma City Community College 405-826-2424

MVTO

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to George Tiger our principal chief.

As a tribal member who Jives outside the boundaries of our great Nation, it was nice to see the genuine interest Chief Tiger took out of his busy schedule recently for a fundraiser held here in Fort Worth, Texas. I was recently diagnosed with stage-four breast cancer, the type that moves very quickly. Unfortunately for me, I had to have a radical mastectomy to remove my left breast. During this time, as if things weren't bad enough, my house caught Helen (Hardrige) Jones

on fire. Thank God, the damage was minimal with no injuries to my family. I was at my wits end I didn't know what I was going to do. That's when my friends and nieces decided to put on a fundraiser for me.

The benefit was a great success they raised over \$5000 for me I was truly humbled by the outcome, a great blessing and again Chief Tiger thank you for thinking about me. I'm a long way away from home but it's certainly good to know that I have a Chief that is concerned about me and is willing to help.

- MVTO,



Myskoke Language Preservation Program VERBS - Ending with etv

HOMPETV — To eat LETKETV - To run TASKETV — To jump **NUCETV** — To sleep

HONECETV — To awaken YVHIKETV — To sing

ESKETV — To drink NORICETV — To cook

ISEMETV — To give TVCETV — To cut

NESETV — To buy

WIYETV — To sell

EMMERRETV — To feel sorry for

ONVYETV — To tell

HAYETV — To build

OMETV — To be

HIYOMETV — To happen

MECETV — To do

OCETV — To have

HVLVTETV — To hold

Ε Y V C Ε S M Α M 0 N Н Ε C Ε C S Т S 0 C O Т

MCN Bar Association announces officer elections

MCNBA/Media Release

WHAT: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association Meeting and Election of Officers

WHEN: Monday, Aug. 17, 2015, starting promptly at 6 p.m. CST

WHO: All MCNBA members in good standing

WHERE: Mound Building auditorium, MCN Tribal Complex, Okmulgee

WHY: To elect MCNBA officers and vote on accepting proposed by-laws

INFO: Bar association members must be in good standing and physically present at the meeting to nominate or vote. Proxy voting will not be accepted. Nominations will be taken from the general membership at the beginning of the meeting for three officer positions: president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer.

Candidates must receive greater than 50 percent of the votes cast for their nominated position to be declared the winner. If more than two candidates are nominated from the same position, the two candidates receiving the most votes for that position will immediately participate in a subsequent run-off election that evening to determine the winner.

Notice of the election results from Aug. 17 will be published in the 'Muscogee Nation News' and posted online at: www.creeksupremecourt.com. Proposed by-laws may also be viewed on the MCN Supreme Court website under the Bar Association

For more information call: 918-758-1439.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Attention MCN candidates!

As our election nears, please be aware of the absentee ballot deadlines as you mail out your fliers and brochures to those of us that vote absentee.

It does you no good when we receive your information either on or after the date our ballot needs to be in the hands of the election board.

Myto and good luck to all the candidates!

Richard Beaver

TCIC YOUTH CAMP SET FOR AUG. 3-8

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a weeklong youth ages 7-13 camp for Aug. 3-8.

The camp will end with a parent day cookout. Come join and make new friends.

Participants must live within TCIC boundaries and parents/ guardians should be a TCIC member. If they are not, they may join.

For more information call: 918-298-2464.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR SEPT. 7

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Marshall family reunion is set for Sept. 7 from 12-3 p.m. at Nichols Park in Henryetta. Bring a door prize and picnic items. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served.

For more information, call Judy Montiel at: 918-752-5602.

TCIC OFFICER ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election Sept. 17 from 6-8 p.m. for the positions of: vice-chairman, secretary/ treasurer and sergeant-at-arms. Deadline for letters of intent stating the position you are seeking and \$20 for a background check are due Aug. 27, by 5 p.m.

For more information call Roman Powell at: 918-298-2464.

MCN staff participates in fundraiser



Submission

Team Pacemaker/Release

This past May, friends and members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Food Distribution Program staff had the opportunity to participate in the Okmulgee Relay for Life event under the team name of Pacemakers.

Relay for Life is a fundraising event that is sponsored by the American Cancer Society with all proceeds going towards cancer

awareness and research. Before and during the event, Team Pacemakers did several fundraisers with the goal of

raising \$1,000. The final total for the team was \$2,000. One of the many highlights of fundraising was an Indian Taco Sale hosted by Newtown United Methodist Church and a raffle drawing for a Native American flute.

MCN Realty Department's very own Danielle Moss was the lucky winner of the flute.

Mrs. Moss was presented the flute by a few members of Team Pacemakers.

Team Pacemakers wanted to present the flute to Mrs. Moss in a way that would help promote the Relay for Life Event and with the hopes that more people would want to participate in a cause that has affected many lives.

#MCNVOTE2015 — Primary: Sept. 19 / General Nov. 2

MCN principal chief candidates

James Floyd Principal Chief

Clan: Wind Tribal Town: Koweta

Ceremonial Ground: Tvlahasse/Wvkokaye Education/Experience: Master's degree, post-masters certifications, managed \$2 billion budget, 9500 employees — Integrity - Top Secret Security Clearance — Teamwork - established IHS/VA sharing agreements —



Innovation - Created VA/ tribal reimbursement and telehealth programs

Platform: While establishing successful programs for tribes nationally, my heart remained here, hoping to return to serve our tribe. I have acquired unique skills to better utilize current investments and improve efficiency of service delivery, with full financial and personnel accountability, through 35 years senior executive expertise with Veterans Health, IHS and MCN. Not accepting donations - just your vote. MVTO.

Contact information: 918-671-7008, Floyd2015.com

Adam Jones III Principal Chief

Clan: Bear Tribal Town: Koweta

Church: Little Coweta Indian Baptist **Education/Experience:** Associate degr

Education/Experience: Associate degree in business, owner Jones Construction and current McIntosh District Council representative. Eight years National Council



Platform: I am 44, married 14 years to my wife, Amanda. We have five children and raise them in Stidham. This has given me insight to make needed changes. Areas include healthcare, economic development and education. I seek to provide our children with a secure future and become self-reliant. I will work hard for you, because all our children depend on it. You can't have change by adding more of the same. MVTO!

David Nichols Principal Chief

Clan: Wotko (Racoon) **Tribal Town:** Tukupvtce

Church: Salt Creek United Indian Methodist **Education/Experience:** High school/20 years National Council representative

Platform: My platform is clear. I will represent our Nation in a manner that brings pride

upon us all. I will focus resources on the health, education, housing and the overall welfare of each citizen. I will bring financial accountability to the business practices of our Nation and ensure the business development will engage in benefits of our Nation's citizens. To each action I take as principal chief, I will ask myself 'would the elders and the veterans be proud of this action?' MVTO.



MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar, length and Associated Press style. The following release ran on either pages one or two of the June 15, July 1 and July 15 editions of the 'Muscogee Nation News' as well as other media outlets to inform all candidates of the rules before the filing period. These rules were strictly adhered to with no exceptions: 'MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their 100 total word limit bios. No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material. Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.'

Those with questions or concerns may contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or scosper@mcn-nsn.gov or Mvskoke Media Director Christina Good Voice at: 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.

George Tiger Principal Chief

Clan: HOTVLE (Wind)

Tribal Town: O'CE VPOFV (Hickory

Ground)

Church: Yardeka Indian Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: O'CE VPOFV

(Hickory Ground)

Education/Experience: Morris HS, Haskell

Indian Junior College, NSU, Honorary

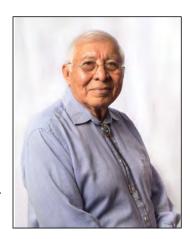
Doctorate – Bacone, Multi-term National Council member, current principal chief, first language and fluent Mvskoke speaker

Platform: Reflects the traditions, culture and language needs of our most valuable and precious resource – our tribal citizens. Increase the wealth of our Nation by expanding opportunities for our citizens, keeping healthcare, education and housing as top priorities and promoting positive economic progress. MVSKOKE ETVLWV'VLKE HESAKETV-MESE OHMERRVS! (May God continue to bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!)

Thomas Yahola Principal Chief

Platform: The responsibility of a principal chief is to exhibit integrity, transparency and accountability in caring for his people.

Today that is maintaining and improving health, education, and a higher standard of living for his people. Being a chief, he must set the example for others to follow. With your vote, this is my pledge to you.



The above listed characteristics have been my lifetime foundation. They were formed by my traditional upbringing, discipline gained in military service and knowledge gained through education and work experiences. I sincerely request your vote for principal chief, MVTO.

MCN National Council Seat A candidates

Shirlene M. Ade Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Katcvlke Tribal Town: Che

Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Many Springs Baptist

Education/Experience: Employed 25 years federal government. I worked for IHS, Tinker AFB, Department of the Army (McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant) retired in 2005, two years early to work and serve Creek citizens more effectively. Mother: Elizabeth Narcomey, Holdenville. Father: Frank Lewis, Eufaula.

Platform: We have a challenge to face our future addressing the needs of our Creek Citizens in a modern setting, through innovative and technological means, but it must remain essentially Muskoke Etvlwv. To accomplish this, our government must remain IN an OF our culture and IN and OF our people.

Samuel Scott Alexander Tulsa District

Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Church: Member of Montesoma Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Lives in Broken Arrow. A graduate of Northeastern State College, he manages his CPA practice located in Wagoner. First confirmed tax commissioner (tribal defendant) during tobacco litigation



with Oklahoma, Gaming Operations Authority Board chair when bingo halls converted into casinos, National Council representative for eight years, speaker in 2012-2013, three daughters, two granddaughters, senior athlete, running and basketball.

Platform: His candidacy for National Council representative offers unmatched financial experience, vast tribal background and candor to the concerned voter.

Wilson Bear McIntosh District

Clan: Bear
Tribal Town: Eufaula-Canadian
Church: Protestant
Ceremonial Ground: Eufaulagee

Education/Experience: B.S. Psychology/ Sociology

Platform: Health, education, welfare, economic development for smaller

communities that will create jobs, Social Service and Elderly Housing will play a big part as your representative.



Ceremonial Ground: New Tulsa

Clan: Aktvkculke

Church: New Beginnings Baptist

Education/Experience: Master of Science, industrial management, Bachelor of Science, environmental management, ordained minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee

(Creek) Nation. I currently serve as manager of the Environmental Services Department fo

of the Environmental Services Department for the tribe and I am honored to work alongside dedicated professionals who continually protect the tribe's resources.

Platform: Resource management and fiscal responsibility — tribal resource protection and fiscal responsibility shall remain my steadfast goal as I continue to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Tony Bell Creek District

large retail organization.

Church: Jenks United Methodist **Education/Experience:** Sapulpa High School, OSU Okmulgee, 30 Years in business, I live in Kiefer, Okla., with my wife of 32 years. I have over 20 years of business experience with 10 of those as an executive director for a

Platform: Our Nation has become a large employer in our state and influential in our communities. I believe my experience in business and my reputation for honesty and integrity is crucial to all positions within the tribe for our continued growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

Contact information: Facebook — Tony Bell, 918-321-9511



Hazel A. (Grace) Bunner Okmulgee District

Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco
Church: Thlopthlocco Methodist
Education/Experience: Psychology/
Sociology, tribal government, research and development, real estate

Platform: I am a mother, grandmother and the former wife of a Vietnam veteran. At this

time in our Nation's history, we need to confront and constructively deal with the issues associated with individual and tribally owned lands, our Native veterans, gender equality in the workplace and the least promoted age group, 35-53. As a candidate, I will strive to promote legislation that will reflect the highest public good and not for one individual, business or department.



Franklin Joseph Coachman Okfuskee District

Clan: Nokosulke (Bear Clan)
Tribal Town: Etvlwv Rakko (Big Town)
Church: Arbeka United Methodist
Ceremonial Ground: Green Leaf

Education: Associate Degree in Science Haskell University, Studies at Seminole State College and Oklahoma Baptist University

Platform: As your representative, I will stay committed to making our Nation a stronger one, always looking for the future. I have been honored to serve you as your full-time Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and would like to continue serving in this position with the help of your vote. BANK ON FRANK.



Arlene Harjo Davis Okfuskee District

Clan: Sweet Potato
Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce
Church: Wewoka United Methodist
Ceremonial Ground: Alabama
Education/Experience: Medical field 34
years, with MCN Department of Health
nine years, last five years with the Tobacco
Prevention Program

Platform: Health, education and welfare.



Alvin L. Bucktrot Tulsa District

Clan: Tiger

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground, Sand Creek **Education/Experience:** Associate in Applied Science - Okmulgee Tech; U.S. Army National Guard – Water purification specialist, over 35 years journeyman plumber in private, public and government sectors

Platform: It doesn't take a rocket scientist to

follow the Constitution. If elected, my mission will be to progress and excel citizens to become self-sufficient and eradicating barriers that lead to poverty. Every vote I make will ask, "Will this benefit the ENTIRE MCN?" Whether you're a Christian, traditionalist, or non-believer, I urge you to vote.



Johnnie (Chalakee) Greene Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes District

Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Kialegee

Church: Springtown United Methodist
Education: Coweta Schools, Haskell

Institute, Tulsa Business School

Platform: I will continue to be an advocate for providing quality health care and housing for our elders. A high priority is also helping our

youth continue their education through Higher Education programs and supporting the College of the Muscogee Nation. I also believe preserving our language and culture is imperative in all our communities. First and foremost, I will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution and law.



Nelson Scott Harjo Okmulgee District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama Quasarty

Church: Tekopytce

Ceremonial Ground: Alabama Education: Associates applied science

Platform: Community is what we are, a group of people who live together with a shared culture and heritage. Our communities

together form the Mvskoke Nation. Using demographics and statistics allow us to gain insight to work with communities better through business, healthcare and social programs. Citizens are the trunk of the tree of the Mvskoke Nation. Every community today, every community in the future, will need to be strong and self-sufficient in order for us to grow and flourish as a Nation.



Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Ufala
Church: Buckeye Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Mason Public School, OSU-Okmulgee, Cherokee Nation Head Start-Transportation training specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation-Community

Research and Development, MCN Gaming-general manager, Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise-marketing director and general manager

Platform: If elected as the National Council representative of the "Great Muscogee Nation," I plan to utilize my work experience and education to help our tribe/communities to progress forward. It is time for CHANGE! I plan to focus on our healthcare, economic development, education and culture. With your help, we can make a difference! MVTO.



Clan: Beaver (Echaswv)
Tribal Town: New Tulsa
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Depew H.S., Tulsa Air Park, employed in the Aviation Industry for NORDAM 26 years. Supervisor and serving on the College Program Advisory Committee (Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, three years.)



Platform: I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation the next four years and am hopeful that we can have a united government that can work together to bring industry and economic development to our Nation so that we may prosper to meet the health, education and welfare needs of our Nation.

Robert Hufft Tulsa District

Clan: Deer

Church: Asbury Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University with 30 years of corporate experience, over 20 years as controller for a Tulsa company and over 12 years of tribal government experience. I have served as ex-officio to the Gaming Authority Board and served as second speaker to the



National Council as well as served on various committees.

Platform: I believe it's time for the Nation to re-evaluate our resources and assets to provide a plan to our citizens on how to utilize those assets to meet the needs of the citizens and prepare for our future.

Timothy A. Jackson, Jr. Wagoner District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Weogufkee **Church:** First Baptist of Coweta

Education/Experience: Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University; Construction management – project engineer and small business owner – Narcomey Designs, certified associate

Narcomey Designs, certified associate
 constructor of the American Institute, OSU
 Construction Management Advisory Board member, Associated General

will inform our people with complete transparency.

Contractor member, Steering Committee member of the Construction Leadership Council

Platform: My purpose is to serve our people, give the government back

to our people and gather input from the people for our Nation's future. I

Contact information: 918-344-1949, narcomeydesigns@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/ElectTJackson

David Jimboy Tukvpvtce District

Tribal Town: Tulmochussee (inactive)

Church: Methodist

Education/Experience: Okemah High School, Military 1973-1975, USMC. 3rd Marine Divison 1st Amtrac Bn., Evacuation Operation-Vietnam; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Honorable Discharge. Chickasaw

Nation Health System healthcare security officer 16 years. Served Holdenville Indian Community as vice-chairperson five years and now chairperson.

Platform: I believe as a member of my community, we need to work as a team. Birthplace - Sapulpa; Father -William (Bill) Jimboy, Mother-Helen (Harjo) Jimboy; Home - Holdenville. Married to Mrs. Jensie Lee (Powell) Jimboy 35 Years. Father five children, grandfather 14 children, two greatgrandchildren.



Clan: Deer

Ceremonial Ground: Weogvfke/Muddy

Water

Education/Experience: A.S. business administration, 13 years experience NAHASDA, HUD, ONAP and other housing programs, 10 years experience as environmental professional, eight years experience historic/cultural preservation, 15

years experience construction budgeting/contracts.

Platform: I believe Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. If given the opportunity, I will use my working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance.

Edwin Marshall Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce

Church: Alabama Quassarte Indian Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Tukvpvtce (inactive) Education/Experience: Bachelor of social work, ECU. Experience spanning four administrations - Election Board chair, National Council representative, division director, program manager, Constitution Convention vice-chair and chief of staff.



Platform: Citizens indicate a desire to move forward as MCN has the potential for. Political contention and lack of citizen inclusion (along with selective distribution of resources) has caused the majority to become indifferent and disinterested as evidenced by voter apathy. I won't be defined by special interest or politicians and vow to keep the citizens' will as my priority.







Sandra Peters Okmulgee District

Clan: Ancient Mother Clan Wind **Tribal Town:** Arbeka-Tulladega **Church:** Trinity Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: B.A. art education, Master's study-educational psychology and theological studies, past representative, tribal administration leadership in economic development



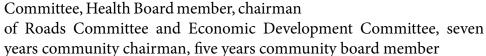
Platform: We are a strong Nation, having passed through wars, separation and despair. We negotiate business on a corporate level acquiring for economic profit-driven aspirations from our resources, our intellect, utilizing tribal sovereignty. We uphold the sacred trust at our ceremonial grounds and churches, our language a testimony to our creator God. I am running on the belief in what is good, honest and right. My heart is for the growth of MCN. MVTO.

Tom O. Pickering McIntosh District

Clan: Sweet Potato Tribal Town: Hichiti

Church: West Eufaula Indian Missionary **Baptist**

Education/Experience: OSUIT - 17 years, National Council, chairman Tribal Affairs Committee and Community Service



Platform: Councilmen should be a visionary and must listen to the citizens to make decisions. I believe in planning for the future needs of our people and ensure funds will be available for them. We need to protect our sovereignty, people and employees. We must invest in our young and find ways to help our elderly. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-618-2015

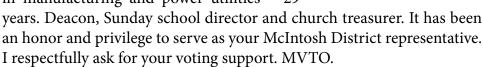


Clan: Deer "ECOVLKE"

Church: Weogufkee Missionary Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Associates Degree in computer integrated systems service, OSUIT, National Council representative from 2008-2015; instrumentation technician in manufacturing and power utilities - 29



Wife of 25 years, Robin; daughters, Kelsey and Amberly; son, Darrell II; mother, Minnie (Proctor) Cannon; grandparents, the late Andy and Judy (Lasley) Proctor.

Sharon Wyatt Britt Rose McIntosh District

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Arbeka/Nuyuka Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: Graduated from Graham, Weleetka 1980, graduated from Oklahoma School of Business in Tulsa, 1981, legal secretarial degree, SHIP counselor,

CAC counselor for the Affordable Care Act. Muscogee (Creek) Nation 5-2006 to present contract health coordinator/ patient benefits coordinator.

Platform: I will strive to bring accountability to our citizens and strive to ensure that all employees are supported indulgently. I will work for the citizens that are in and out of our jurisdiction to the fullest. Health/ education/tribal and housing will be a priority. MVTO.



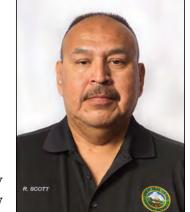
Rufus Scott Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama **Church:** Alabama Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Alabama

Education/Experience: Army Military Police Academy, Council on Law Enforcement Education Training, Wetumka Board of Education 18 years, board president

16 Years



Platform: I have been married to my wife Judith for 27 years. We have a daughter, Kristi and a son Brad, a grandson, Oskewyske and a granddaughter Peyton. I am Lighthorseman and also a member of the Myskoke Nation Honor, serving as treasurer for 17 years. I would like to bring back fairness to all citizens and not a chosen few. I will be committed and listen to you the citizen.

Pearl (Chalakee) Thomas Okmulgee District

Clan: Nokose Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Honey Creek UMC

Education/Experience: BS Education, Northeastern State University- retired from Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years, National Council representative for four years and served on Council committees -

Community Services and Cultural Committee and Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

Platform: Moving the Nation forward while staying loyal to the citizens and traditions. I promise to represent the citizens to the very best of my ability so that our Nation will have a bright and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

'Carol' Eugenia Tiger Okfuskee District

Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Fishpond Church: Springfield UMC

Education/Experience: High school - Long Beach California, Anchor Glass Container 34 years, Creek Nation Election Board 16 years

Platform: My job as your Council

representative would be to work for you. All community needs are important to me-church, ceremonial and community groups. I would like to see our Nation move forward and set higher standards to serve our people. From our youth to our elders, we can focus on the important issues and support one another. If elected, I would proudly serve you!

Contact information: Cell - 918-716-8267, Hompvs.ci@gmail.com, Facebook: Vote Carol Tiger Okfuskee

Eleanor 'Irene' Van Buskirk Tulsa District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Kvncvte **Church:** Newtown Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelor Of Administration. Background: outpatient services (alcoholism and drug abuse); financial analyst (small business development), entrepreneurial trainer.



Platform: I live in Glenpool and was born to Esther (Simmers) and Elmer Van Woudenberg. Attend services for world-wide leaders. Children: Chasilee, Josiah and Elijah; six grandchildren: Aubree, Tristan, Jeffery, Kristie, Elizabeth and Zay. I will provide services with the best delivery possible with God's blessings. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-946-6542, eiwhitebird@gmail.com, Facebook-Elect Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk







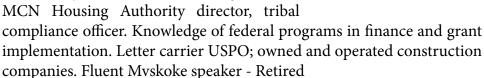
Sam 'Gene' Whitlow Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground

Church: Thewarle Baptist, member, deacon

Education/Experience: Dustin HS, Haskell Institute, building construction; Oklahoma State Tech, building technology, diploma, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge (1967) MCN Housing Authority director, tribal

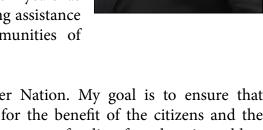


Platform: I have two daughters, three sons and live in Dustin. Tribal programs are for the people. We are entrusted to respectfully administer programs for their betterment and for continual improvement. Please support me for your representative. MVTO.

Dean WilliamsOkmulgee District

Clan: Bird Church: Baptist

Education/Experience: Henryetta High School, OSU Associate Degree, construction technology. Worked 22 years within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, seven years as GSA/Facilities manager providing assistance to the departments and communities of MCN.



Platform: Help build a stronger Nation. My goal is to ensure that all appropriations legislation is for the benefit of the citizens and the Nation. I would like to implement more funding for education, elders and the preservation of our culture. All Myskoke people deserve a tribal government they can be proud of.



Grover Wind Okmulgee District

Tribal Town: Kvsehtv **Clan:** Nokosvlke

Education/Experience: High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah and ordained minister at New Beginnings Church, Henryetta. Graduate of Okemah High School (1969); college hours from Tulsa Community College and University of Tulsa. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force-Honorable Discharge.



Platform: Planned progress - I am an advocate for tribal enterprise development that will broaden our economic base. Education - I strongly support the development of educational programs, especially funding for scholarships for citizens who are working on degrees or obtaining technical training. Senior citizens - Funding for meals, transportation and activities for seniors in need. Employee Development - Provide opportunities to upgrade skills.

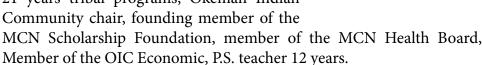
Lena Wind Okfuskee District

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Alabama

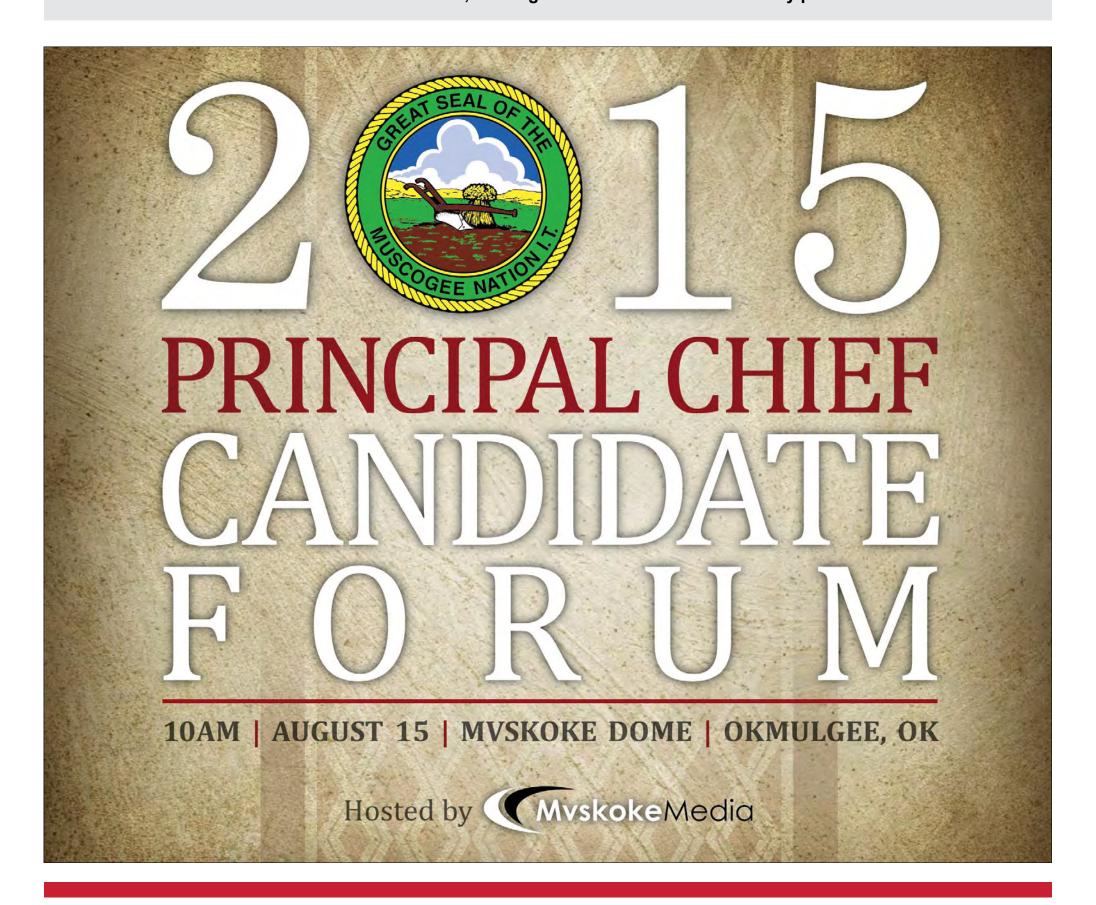
Church: New Beginnings Henryetta

Education/Experience: B.A.ED., NSU, Tahlequah; M.S. ED., OCU, Oklahoma City; 10 years National Council representative, 21 years tribal programs, Okemah Indian Community chair, founding member of the



Platform: Lifelong resident of the Muscogee Nation. There is work needed to address issues with our child welfare. Codes need to be changed that will give extended protection for our children.

No challengers filed to face incumbents, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muskogee District Rep. Mose 'Pete' Beaver and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, which gives them an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.



MCN reaches out to citizens on the west coast

Officials, candidates attend CMCA meeting

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens gathered Aug. 1 for the annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association meeting at the Community Center for Spiritual Living in Riverside, Calif.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation representatives were available to reach out to citizens in the area and provide information on programs.

Some 2015 MCN election candidates traveled to the meeting to interact with atlarge citizens.

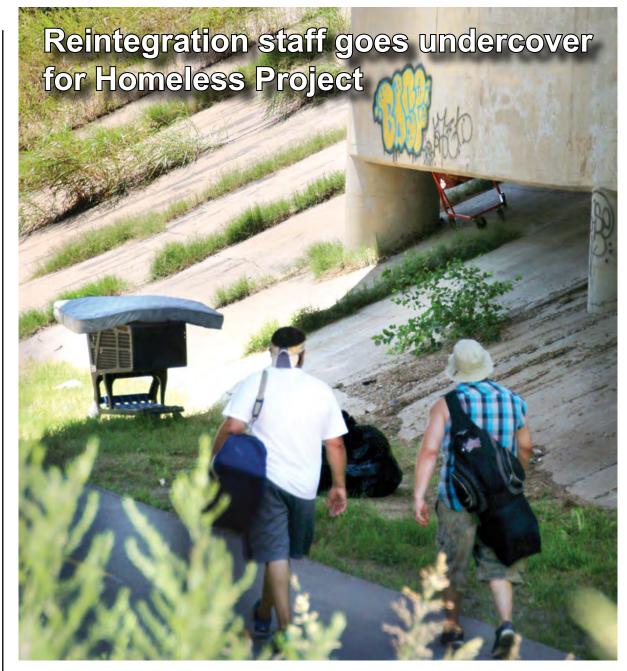
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Victoria Bomberry appreciated her tribe's efforts to connect.

"It's always wonderful to have the tribe come out to visit us," Bomberry said. "We're in California and a lot of people don't have the resources or access to go back to Oklahoma all of the time so it's really good to have the tribe come out here and create a presence for us."

Eugene Herrod, a CMCA volunteer talked about the history of MCN, dissolution of the MCN government and recreation in the 1970s.

He was grateful to be able to speak with candidates for the upcoming election and believes that voting is one of

West - 2



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program employees Kevin Green, who went undercover as Ray (left), and Sprint Williams (right), who went as Diego, for the RiP Homeless Project July 17-19 in downtown Tulsa, Okla.

Project gives program better understanding of clients

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What started as a conversation between Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program Senior Case Manager Sprint Williams and Project Coordinator Kevin Green lead them to a life they could of never imagined.

While going to visit clients, Williams and Green observed the homeless and wondered what it would be like to have to live on the streets. RiP conducted a homeless project to bring awareness by Homeless - 8

having two staff members live on the streets for three days in downtown Tulsa.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness website, in January 2014 there were 578,424 people experiencing homelessness on any given

Bird family files wrongful death suit



Jessica McBride/MNN

Benjamin Crump, attorney for the family of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III, speaks during a press conference Aug. 3 at the Riggs Abney Law Office in Tulsa, Okla.

Report reveals marijuana in guard's system during incident

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

TULSA, Okla. — Attorneys for the family of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III released the toxicology report for security guard Ricky

Stone who was involved in a shooting incident involving Bird Feb. 4.

The information was given during a press conference held Aug. 3 in Tulsa by the family at the Riggs Abney Law Office, which has provided legal



CCA gives Council House update

Nearby building purchased for visitor center

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives have long-term plans for the MCN Council House in downtown Okmulgee.

CCA has been working with historic architects over the past few months to uncover some of the elements of the Council House as it was constructed in

Also, included in the plans is

Update - 2

MCN interns celebrate with end of season banquet

Program helps students succeed

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation College Work Experience Program came to a close July 31 with a celebration banquet at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills.

CWE is a program for college juniors, seniors and graduate students to participate in a 12-week internship program.

Several students participated this year.

"We are very proud of our interns and what they have done for themselves this year," CWE Coordinator Carmen Rudd said. "We feel that our program can help them take that first step forward into employment that is related to their degree."

Rudd said that the interns had to handle the applications and interviews on their

"Everything was up to them," Rudd said.

Rudd felt that this was a great opportunity.

"I am glad that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation put this idea into what it is now," Rudd said. "It can help open so many doors for the interns."

One intern, Grant Proctor said the program has been a big help for him and his career.

"I was on the program last year so I had a little bit of a head start than some of the interns this year," Proctor

Proctor said that the program has turned the internship into a successful venture as he will be starting employment in the fall.

"I learned quite a bit this summer during my internship," Proctor said. "With the help of this program, I was able to get hired on and start my new job. This program has been a blessing."

Proctor has something to say for the future interns who will be a part of CWE pro-

"This is the perfect situation for you," Proctor said. "This a great opportunity for the students to get experience in what they want to do after you graduate."

For more information about the College Work Experience Program call: 918-732-7780.

UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the renovation of the 9,000 square feet Sharpe's building located across the street.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said the Sharpe's building, purchased in June with funds from CCA revolving account, would serve as overflow space for the Council House.

"Our goal and ambition is to develop it as a true visitor center for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the capital city of Okmulgee and the Council House," Giles said.

One major function of the building will be to house the CCA museum collection.

"Other things that will be implemented in there will be a true collections housing facility for the 7,000 plus collection that we now oversee," Giles said.

Giles said he also wants to include an art gallery, gift shop and community space.

"We are looking forward to working with our own Muscogee Nation artists here to start commissioning work and any typical and general fine art to gift shop works," he said.

The building will also include office space for CCA.

Giles said that could extend to other departments who have an interest in working downtown.

Plans include a designated community space on the second floor with seating space and movable walls that could

be used for lectures or classes.

"If community members from either Okmulgee or Creek Nation want to have a space to use, that's something we will be able to provide," Giles said.

Giles expects construction on the visitor center to take place at the same time as the Council House restorations.

Once construction starts, it is expected to take 12-18 months to renovate.

Construction was slated to start in September.

However, it has been placed on hold as MCN National Council legislation NCA 15-172 to fund the almost \$3.25 million remodel failed in committee as did TR 15-134 to approve an agreement with the architects for renovations.

The legislations' sponsor, Rep. Mark Randolph said it failed due to lack of available funding because the MCN Department of Health requested a \$4.5 million appropriation to supplement contract health services.

"It's not that we don't support the restoration of the Council House because we do," Randolph said. "We want to see all of that come to fruition. Right now, our priority has to be the people and that's the only rea-

Randolph said he plans to resubmit the Council House legislation next fiscal year.

Construction was slated to start in September but has been placed on hold as Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council legislation NCA 15-172, to fund the almost \$3.25 million remodel, failed in committee as did TR 15-134 to approve an agreement with the architects for renovations.

VEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the most important duties as a gions of the U.S. is critical to Muscogee (Creek) citizen.

"Parents, remember when it comes to voting, you're setting an example for your children... Please let your children see you exercise your right to vote," Herrod said. "Your children will do as you do when they get older."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Richard Procello discovered his Muscogee (Creek) heritage in 1994 after his mother passed away and found his grandmother's enrollment card while going through her items.

Procello believes that having communication between MCN and citizens in other rethe citizenship base.

"It's just a wonderful opportunity to be part of the Nation on an ongoing basis," Procello said. "So we need to work, I think, more diligently as a tribe, as a Nation to make sure that people who live outside of the territory are part of the whole process, part of the information process and system. I think it requires a great effort on both parts actually."

The next CMCA meeting will be announced at a later date. For more information about CMCA, contact Jeanna Spirou at: jeannars@yahoo.

Nation sponsors 'Night at the Drillers' in Tulsa



Amanda Rutland/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation sponsored a Tulsa Drillers baseball game July 17 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa, Okla.

Free admission provided to citizens for baseball game

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The Oklahoma heat was as thick as the smell of hot dogs and fried food that permeated the air July 17 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Night at the Drillers event.

MCN Principal Chief George

Tiger threw the first pitch that evening for the Drillers vs. the Arkansas Travelers baseball game.

"I think it is important that Muscogee (Creek) Nation has a good working partnerships with the communities we're in," Tiger

MCN sponsorship provided free tickets and participation in the games between innings for Muscogee (Creek) citizens and a

fireworks finale at the end of the game.

Drillers Team President and General Manager Mike Melega said the fireworks are a tradition.

"Part of the entertainment that we bring as the Drillers to ONEOK Field is the promotions that we do and sponsors like you guys make these nights happen. Then, all of Tulsa can really enjoy these types of nights and come to downtown Tulsa," Melega said.

Melega encouraged everyone to come to a game.

"The casual fan can love and enjoy coming out to ONEOK Field. If you come out here for the first time with little ones, you want to make sure they come out in a bathing suit, especially this time of year," Melega said. "We've got a splash zone right behind the center field wall."

ONEOK Field also features water slides and inflatables at Hornsby's Hangout.

For a game schedule and more information visit: www.tulsadrillers.com.

Mvskoke Nation Youth Services holds leadership camp

Participants gain skills for future

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program hosted their first Leadership Camp July 31-Aug. 2 at Camp Loughridge in Tulsa.

Twenty-two youth gathered together for a weekend of fun and activities to help them network with other youth and learn leadership skills.

"It's a combination of young people who are on our youth council as well as other young people who were just interested in leadership," said MNYS Director Nancy Mason.

This year's theme was Tepaket Kvwapkes, which means 'Together We Rise' in the Mvskoke

Mason spoke about the purpose of the camp and what they would like the youth to take away from the experience.

"To promote these young people to either increase or gain leadership skills," Mason said.

The camp focused on developing leadership skills as the youth participated in activities based on mental, physical, social and spiritual foundations.

"We're kind of looking at the medicine wheel in our concepts," Mason said. "Our first day was based on mind and we did a lot of educational activities



The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program held the first Tepaket Kvwapkes (Together We Rise) Leadership Camp July 31-Aug. 2 at Camp Loughridge in Tulsa, Okla.

and talked about different phases of leadership."

Team leaders shared their educational and leadership experiences with the younger campers.

The youth were also given a tour of the College of the Muscogee Nation on their first day.

Other camp activities included the Science Technology Education and Math (STEM) projects, literacy exercises, a ropes course, Mvskoke language lessons, arts, games, swimming and motivational speakers.

The speakers included employees from Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments, a MCN National Council representative and former Miss MCN Rachael Sourjohn.

Tyler Hill, a 17-year-old from Muskogee, spoke about why he chose to attend the camp.

"I've been to so many and I've met a lot of new people and a lot of new friends," Hill said. "I hope to change my attitude and make me a better and stronger leader."

Hill shared one of his favorite memories from camp.

"We had a big singing in the back on a balcony; just getting together and singing different songs," Hill said.

Muscogee (Creek) youth who had completed 8th, 9th or 10th grades and were of this age group were eligible to attend.

For more information call Mason at: 918-549-2557.

MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND

arutland@mcn-nsn.gov REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE

CIRCULATION WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

MvskokeMedia

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Complex bowshoot area named to honor Berryhill



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Mvskoke Bow Society leader John Brown during the 2015 Musogee (Creek) Nation Festival Corn Stalk Shoot held June 25 at the Mike Berryhill Cultural Preservation Area on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Brown discusses bow society growth

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The lawn on the west side of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee does not look special. It is barren save for a few trees and a small square shade.

ing place of Cvkotakse Seccvlke or the Myskoke Bow Society. Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mike Berryhill founded the group in 2004.

In an interview for the 2007 documentary 'Cvkotakse Hayv' (Bow Maker), Berryhill expressed he viewed bow making as a way to interact with Mvskoke culture.

"In your youth, a lot of things However, this is the meet- kind of pull you away from your Brown at: 918-759-8283.

culture...I didn't get to where I was involved in my culture again until I was about 50-years-old." Berryhill said.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 15-125 during the June 20 regular session, which named it the Mike Berryhill Cultural Preservation Area and designated it as a place for outdoor cultural activities.

"We feel like it was just a way to honor Mike in a way his legacy would not be forgotten," Mvskoke Bow Society leader John Brown said.

Brown said the group has continued to grow and during the 2015 MCN Festival, 40 shooters participated in the corn stalk shoot.

Brown believes the group is carrying on Berryhill's mission.

"The way that we make our bows, the way that we shoot and the way that we have a good fellowship at our shoots was what Mike was trying to get to," Brown said.

MBS meets the first Saturday of every month. All shoots are free and open to the public.

Brown encourages families to bring their children and said MBS members have extra bows.

"We have loaner bows for everybody... We have all the gear, their finger tabs, their arm guard and we supply the arrows," Brown said.

For more information, contact

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed NCA 15-125 during the June 20 regular session, which named the lawn on the west side of the MCN Tribal Complex, the Mike Berryhill Cultural Preservation Area and designated it as a place for outdoor cultural activities.

Citizen receives award from Tulsa mayor



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaylee Morrison (center) received the Rising Star Pinnacle Award from Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr. (left) and his wife Victoria Bartlett (right) May 20 at the Tulsa Mayor's Office in Tulsa, Okla.

Morrison recognized for leadership and volunteer work

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaylee Morrison received the Rising Star Pinnacle Award from Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr. May 20 at the Tulsa Mayor's Office.

Morrison is a 20-year-old from Broken Arrow and a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma where she majors in biology.

According to the City of Tulsa website, the Pinnacle Awards honor Tulsa-area women who are role models in their professions, take risks on behalf of others, perform voluntary community service and demonstrate a commitment to women's issues and concerns.

Morrison won in the Rising Star category that is for women between the ages of 10 and 24 that demonstrate leadership

qualities and an extraordinary commitment to serve the com-

Morrison was nominated for the award over two years ago but because of funding constraints, the ceremony was held this year.

"In order to win the award, the main goal for the person was... helping women and children and make a better place for Tulsa area women," Morrison said.

Her grandmother Nancy Smith said Morrison's leadership started at a young age.

"I first noticed Kaylee's love of children when she worked with me one summer at my art studio," Smith said. "She was nineyears-old and she was teaching art to the five-year-olds."

Since then, Morrison's leadership skills progressed through her high school career and now in college.

While in high school, Morrison volunteered at Saint Francis Hospital, GUTS Church, was the President of the Key Club

and helped found a high school leadership conference for Tulsa area teens.

While at OU, Morrison has been involved in the President's Community Scholars, Housing Center Student Association and the Resident Student Associa-

Morrison gave recognition to her family for being her inspira-

"My grandmother has always pushed me to think outside the box and help others," Morrison said. "My family has always been very supportive of that and everything that I've done."

Morrison hopes to inspire others through leading by example.

"I believe that anyone can be a leader and I think that it's important for especially young girls to realize that they can do anything that they want," Morrison said.

After graduation, Morrison plans to attend medical school and continue helping others.



Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, Valene Bartmess (right) served in Liberia to help with relief efforts against the Ebola virus.

Citizen assists with Ebola relief efforts in Liberia

Bartmess helps fight deadly virus

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The U.S. Public Health Service continues to combat the deadly Ebola virus through relief efforts in Liberia, West Africa.

(Creek) citizen and USPHS Commander Valene Bartmess volunteered to assist in those efforts as a part of a 68-member medical team.

"God gave me an ability to help others," Bartmess said. "I try to do this everyday and I feel God has directed me to serve my fellow man."

Bartmess, who is also a public health nurse working for the Indian Health Service stationed at the Wewoka Indian Health Center, took some time away from her job to help battle the virus.

"We collaborated with numerous departments to get ready to go over to Liberia," Bartmess said.

Bartmess, who has over 20 years experience working in the Indian Health field, shared her thoughts from when she set foot in Liberia.

"I never got scared when I Earlier this year, Muscogee was over there," Bartmess said. "Although I did have anxiety because you just don't know what can happen. We had got really good training and I relied on that to help me."

> Bartmess was a part of Team 4 relief efforts in Liberia.

> She said Team 1 had the most to deal with since they were over there shortly after the out-

> Her team continued in the mission of treating the healthcare workers who were infected with the Ebola virus.

> Team 4 also had the mission of decommissioning the medi-

We have some countries who do not have the resources like ours so I felt there is some way I can do my part and help them out."

- Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Commander of the U.S. **Public Health Service Valene Bartmess**

"I felt this was an opportunity to help other people not only in our country but other countries as well," Bartmess said. "We have some countries who do not have the resources like ours so I felt there is some way I can do my part and help them out."

According to the World Health Organization website, Ebola is a severe, often fatal disease with a death rate of up to 90 percent that is marked by fever and severe internal bleeding, spread through contact with infected body fluids by a filovirus [Ebola virus], whose normal host species is unknown.

While there is still no cure, there are efforts to help other countries that are dealing with

"When they called me, I didn't hesitate," Bartmess said. "I just knew I needed to help them and that it was the right thing to do."

Before she could go to Liberia, Bartmess had to spend some time preparing. She had to spend a week in Anniston, Ala., before deploying to Africa during the second week in March.

cal unit since the number of Ebola patients had declined.

"Our main mission for our team was to train the healthcare workers in Liberia to continue to take care of the patients that had Ebola," Bartmess said. "Our whole team pulled together. It did not matter if you were a doctor or nurse or dentist, we all shared the same load and we all were on the same page."

Bartmess returned to the U.S. April 30. After this, she had to be monitored before she was allowed to return home.

"When we got back to the states, we had to stay three days in Maryland," Bartmess said. "Kind of like a decompression stage."

She had a choice to return home and when she did, the USPHS did extra monitoring for 21 days.

She feels truly blessed for having taken part in helping the Liberian people.

"They are an amazing group of people," Bartmess said. "They were so full of life and gratitude. They were very happy that we were there to help them and they did not take anything for granted."

BIRD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

counsel to them regarding the not a closed case." incident.

The report shows that at the time of the shooting incident, Stone showed to have 6.8 nanograms of marijuana in his system. The request was submitted by the Tulsa Police Department on May 20, received by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Center May 21 and results were reported back June 26.

For comparison, according to the Colorado Department of Transportation website, an individual can receive a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) citation when a test shows 5.0 nanograms of active tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in their system.

THC is the psychoactive element in marijuana.

"We don't understand why the Tulsa County DA (district attorney), who has had this information since June 26, has not moved on that information," Bird attorney Damario Solomon-Simmons said.

Stone was charged May 29 with possession of a controlled drug, after marijuana was discovered in his vehicle while police investigated the shooting incident. A warrant for Stone's arrest was issued May 29 with a \$250 bond. Stone has yet to be arrested.

A personal injury civil suit was served on behalf of the family May 20 against Stone in Gray County, Texas for the incident.

On Feb. 4 at the Deerfield Estates Apartment Complex in Tulsa, Stone approached the vehicle Bird was in along with a 15-year-old female, and asked for identification. According to reports, Bird backed his vehicle into Stone, causing him to roll onto the trunk and into the back window.

Stone fired three shots at Bird as he drove away, hitting him once and paralyzing him from the neck down.

Bird passed away June 30.

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler declined to charge Stone in the incident citing that the shooting was justified under Oklahoma's self-defense laws.

"In evaluating this case, I have to be mindful of the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt and the objective facts," Kunzweiler said.

Bird attorney Benjamin Crump, who represented the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown in policeinvolved shooting incidents in other states, disagrees.

"The 'stand your ground' law is very clear that if you're engaged in an illegal activity, a criminal act, then you can't get the benefit of 'stand your ground," Crump said. "And we know that he had illegal drugs in his system at the time he shot Monroe Bird... Everybody else that has possession of marijuana, they are arrested. But for some reason he wasn't arrested."

Kunzweiler said that he could not comment on any specifics of the criminalistics testing in any case.

"I can point out that based on reports provided to my office from the Tulsa Police Department, not one person who interacted with Mr. Stone indicated in any report that Mr. Stone appeared to be impaired by alcohol or any drug," Kunzweiler said. "As I have also indicated previously, this case is

Kunzweiler referenced that other states have 'per se' drug impairment laws as a standard for determining the presence of drugs in a person's system.

'Per se' laws state that no further evidence of intoxication or impairment other than the blood results need to be shown in order for the DUI charge to

Oklahoma does not have a similar law.

"That is an issue for the legislature to address," Kunzweiler said. "If the law is changed to adopt a 'per se' standard for certain drugs, my job might be a lot easier."

Kunzweiler stated that the pursuit of justice is not limited to the criminal justice system.

Online court records show that attorneys for the Bird family filed a personal injury civil suit May 13 against Stone, the security guard company Smith and Son Security and its owner Benjy Smith, Deerfield Estates as well as Winfield Property Management.

Smith is employed as a reserve deputy with the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office. TCSO has been under scrutiny in recent months, beginning in April when 73-year-old Volunteer Reserve Deputy Robert Bates shot and killed suspect Eric Harris during a sting operation instead of using his Taser.

Bird family attorneys had the suit dismissed Aug. 3 after Bird passed away in order to file a wrongful death suit against the same defendants.

"We will do our job, rest assured, to find justice for this wonderful family who has suffered so much. Who has watched their son be imprisoned for four-and-a-half months in his own body; who literally watched him take his last breath," Solomon-Simmons said.

At the press conference, Bird family attorneys disclosed that Stone has a previous history with the law.

The 'Tulsa World' reported that Stone was arrested for an assault complaint Oct. 17, 1996 by the Amarillo Police Department.

Stone was accused of pulling a 17-year-old boy out of his vehicle and striking him in the face during a road rage incident.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requested a copy of the police report from APD, and has not received the report as of Aug. 6.

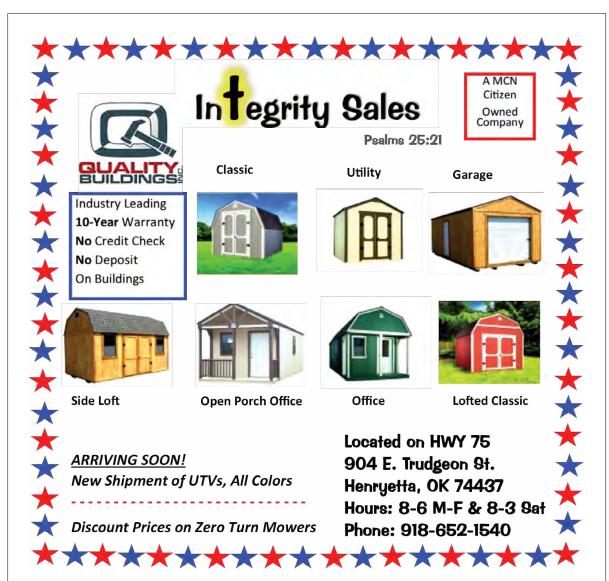
According to online Tulsa County court records, a petition for a protective order was filled against Stone Dec. 28, 2011 for threatening to burn down his roommate's home after being asked to move out.

The protective order was dismissed Jan. 11, 2012 because the plaintiff failed to appear in court to proceed with the final protective order. Stone appeared along with his attorney.

Had a final protective order against Stone been issued, his Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement, Education and Training (CLEET) license would have been revoked or denied according to the Oklahoma CLEET Private Security Application.

As of Aug. 4, Oklahoma CLEET verified that Stone has an active CLEET license. The office is unable to verify any other details, such as what type of license he maintains or when he received it.





The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WETUMKA HEAD START

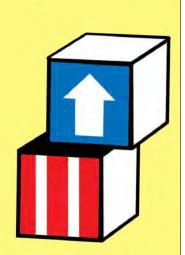
is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirements for the program will include:

- ► Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st
- Income Verification (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)
- Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Child's medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.





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It's election season at MCN

Tom Burtnett/

Muscogee (Creek) citizen

Letter to the Editor

 ${
m H}_{
m ello}$ tribal citizens! My name is Tom Burtnett and I am an elder full citizen of the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I am 69-years-old and I have NEVER lived within the MCN boundaries. Why is this important in the upcoming election, I will share my thoughts on this topic shortly.

I have not missed my right to vote in many years even though I have lived not only outside the boundaries but also outside the State of Oklahoma since I was seven-years-old. I was born in Pawnee in 1946.

I retired in 2009 in Las Vegas and since then, I have had the time and opportunity to follow the administrations of the tribe and our National Council meetings. Thanks to technology today, those of us living far away can still have the opportunity to see the meetings live and with the 'Muscogee Nation News,' keep up on some of the happenings.

This is what makes election time so important to each tribal member! This Nation belongs to each one of us who is a citizen, equally, not greater or lesser, but EQUALLY! By this, I mean we have one vote to cast our decision on whom we want to lead our Nation. If we don't take that right, then we must suffer the consequences of those who did!

I think as citizens of MCN, it is our responsibility to participate in the election process. Why? First, and foremost, it is OUR tribe. By voting, we take the responsibility to voice our concerns and hopefully get our candidate that we believe moving MCN in a progressive, positive way to ensure that not only those of us here today will enjoy the benefits of our tribal ancestry but that generations to come will have that same opportunity. Putting the right candidates in office is the only way we can ensure that for all citizens of the tribe.

With the election season upon us, and the candidate profiles issued in the Aug. 1, 2015 issue of MNN, we now know whom we have to decide upon to lead our Nation forward! Along those lines, there are two topics that I would like to share with you regarding my concerns of where MCN stands on these items today.

The importance of taking responsibility to VOTE! It is our shareholder duty (tribal citizen) to elect qualified people to lead our great Nation. We need a leader who leads with both his head (IQ) and a heart (EQ).

1. National Council representatives: Unfair representation of tribal membership on the council and method of allocation is simple, but not FAIR! MCN is unwilling to recognize the ninth district, the LARGEST district, 'Outside the boundaries' tribal citizens. Why is this?

2. When was the last time the Election Board and/or administration reviewed the criteria qualifications of running for the Offices of Principal Chief and Second Chief and National Council representatives? There is one qualification that is eliminating an otherwise well-qualified MCN tribal citizen. It is the year 2015 and are we really benefitting the tribe with this qualification? I think not!

Studying the 2014 Annual Report; reading the MCN Constitution; researching what the other tribes in the State of Oklahoma are doing, MCN is advancing but we are far from the most progressive tribe in the state. MCN is no longer a small business. Today, it is a half billion-dollar corporation and has an annual operating budget in excess of \$291 million. That is a lot of money to entrust to a handful of people to spend wisely. But that is what we do when we mark those ballots. We are saying we trust these people to spend our money wisely. OUR MONEY!!

There is something very important to recognize about our annual report. We are no longer totally dependent upon the federal grants and money to operate the tribe. This is very important because the revenue we produce as a tribe (over 55 percent) is NOT bound by restrictions like the federal funds sometimes are. What does that mean for citizens? These funds can be spent to care for ALL citizens without any restrictions. But why is it not being done? That is a good question!

Many may not realize that the largest unrecognized district of the tribe is that of those citizens living outside the boundaries. We account for well over 30 percent of the total citizen base. However, we have NO seats on the National Council and are forced to select a district within the boundaries and thrown in there to be forgotten! How many of you living outside the boundaries have ever received anything from the district council members telling you what they are doing for YOU? The only time I ever hear from them is at election time.

The present make-up of the is going to do the best job in National Council is unequal representation of the tribal citizenship. If you only look at it from a common sense approach, you quickly see how unfair it is! The eight districts residing inside the boundaries each get two representatives. Why? Are there an equal number of tribal citizens in each of these eight districts? I hardly think so.

Under the present system, the Tulsa District and the Okmulgee District tribal members are underrepresented on the Council. Take the Wagoner District; it is over represented on the Council. And who is really unfairly represented are the 30 percent plus tribal citizens who live outside the boundaries of MCN. In reality, if seats were allocated, as it should be done by tribal citizenship, the 'Outside the boundaries' citizens should have at least three to four at-large seats.

What we have right now is discrimination within our own tribe against the largest unrecognized group of tribal citizens. Are citizens living inside the boundaries the only ones that care how our Council is appropriating all funds being spent by the tribe? I care, and I want representation on the Council to speak my concerns.

I would hope the rest of you living outside the boundaries feel the same way. There is no better time to bring up this unfair, discriminatory allocation of National Council seats than during the election season. Let the candidates running for office address this issue and tell us what

they would do about it and/or do they believe in the present 'status quo!' We deserve to know as citizens of the tribe. Our voices will be heard because it is election time.

At-Large voting is positive for the tribe. It makes the candidates have to run on a platform and answer for their past voting record. More importantly, it really makes them accountable to ALL citizens of the tribe, not just those living inside their district. Positive result for the tribe. Living outside the boundaries, we have to judge from a one to two piece platform flyer we receive in the mail, many times too late. We have already had to mark our absentee ballots and send them

Wouldn't it be nice if all district candidates were put live on the MCN website where we could see them in their presentations and have a better feel for their ability to represent us the way we want to be represented? Remember, 30 percent of us do not have the ability to be in Eufaula, Okmulgee, Okemah, etc. to hear the candidate when they are there! Include us with technology that is available and let us be better-informed voters!

Before the primary election, watch where the candidates RUN!!!!! CALIFORNIA, not Nevada! Why? It is because the California Creeks who live outside the boundaries are a big block of voters (who vote) and if a candidate is lucky enough to get those potential votes, it can mean victory for that candidate. Why are outside the boundaries tribal members only important during election time? Otherwise, we very often feel as those we are second class citizens. This discriminatory practice needs to STOP! We deserve to have EQUAL representation on the National Council! Let's have a positive open discussion on how this could be done and move forward with a plan with newly elected officials. What better time

to start! FACT: Other tribes have *identified the problem and acted:* Cherokee Nation has 17 council seats of which two are for At-large "outside the boundaries" citizens. So, the Cherokees have been progressive in changes and at least recognize that all their citizens are EQUAL regardless of where they live. When will MCN be able to join that progressive group? Are we putting our priorities in the right order?

Since any changes on the Council would be a drawn out ordeal, I have a suggestion for a temporary fix that would possibly help and assist many of the citizens outside the boundaries set-up a liaison office under the Office of Second Chief. This office would be a contact point for those living outside of the boundaries. We do not have the luxury of being able to be in Okmulgee and walk down the halls and get our business at the tribe done personally. The office would serve as 'our feet' in Okmulgee. We could be assigned a case number and the staff would assist us in getting our business taken care of and handled in a timely manner.

This office would also have the opportunity to gather valuable data as to what citizens outside the boundaries are needing help with and what benefits that may need to be reviewed to see what policies have to be changed to have these benefits readily available to ALL our citizens both inside and outside the boundaries.

Criteria for Running for **Elected Office of MCN**

MCN is being cheated out of

good candidates because of a requirement that absolutely has nothing to do with being qualified to lead our Nation. I am referring to the one, which states that you have to be onequarter Creek or more to run for office. A very simple question - What does blood quantum have to do with an individual's qualification to run? Absolutely NOTHING! I would rather have a one-eighth blood Creek with a Master's Degree in business administration and a strong business background than a Creek who has never been involved in running a middle to large business. Fellow citizens, our tribe is big business now, we need individuals who are educated, have a track record of a strong business background and that is what will move this Nation forward. Hanging onto an antiquated requirement that is ruling out otherwise well-qualified MCN tribal candidates is not the answer. The tribe is cheating its citizens with this.

Since the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is not situated on a reservation, the fact is that the blood quantum is going to continue to decrease. We have been integrated into the Oklahoma communities and chances are great that Creeks will marry someone outside the tribe. There is no way to reverse this trend.

FACT: The current Cherokee Nation Chief, Bill John Baker is one-thirty second Cherokee. He was recently re-elected by a wide majority. Proof that degree of blood has nothing to do with being highly qualified to lead a great Nation.

There's not a better time to bring this up than during our own election cycle and hear where the candidates stand on this criteria.

In closing, as we approach the primary election season, I hope every registered voter takes a step back, looks in the mirror and commits to being active in our "right" to vote. If you are NOT registered, get registered. The only way we can move the tribe forward is to vote for people who first, have the qualifications to do so; secondly, surrounds themselves with a cabinet that is highly qualified in their respective areas and a leader that doesn't pick a cabinet to reward them for supporting him and are not all "YES" people!

A strong leader surrounds himself/herself with people more knowledgeable than him. You can't expect one person to know everything but a strong leader knows how to bring a well-qualified cabinet together and move the Nation forward. That is the quality of candidates we need running for principal chief in this election. Let's elect an effective leader that has the ability to integrate his head (IQ)

with his heart (EQ). A Buddhist monk, Hanh taught, "The longest journey you will ever take is the 18 inches from your head to your heart." Our hearts are where essential leadership qualities like passion, compassion and courage reside. By practicing mindfulness, competent leaders exhibit high levels of selfawareness and intentionality in their actions! This is the kind of leader we need to elect this election cycle.

Comments: please feel free to contact me through my e-mail: creektom@live.com; let's talk!

God bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Great United States of America!!!

MARTHA HARJO



SASAKWA, Okla. — Martha Jane Harjo, age 65 years of Sasakwa departed this life Monday, July 27, 2015 at her home in Sasakwa. She was born Dec. 13,1949 in Wewoka to the late Fred Sonny Harjo and Ida Harjo.

She graduated from Saskawa High School and attended LPN school. She worked as Medical office assistant at Southeastern Women's Health Center in Ada until her retirement.

Martha was a member of Spring Baptist Church. Her hobbies were spending time with her friends and family and her Church family. She loved going to sporting events.

Preceding Martha in death are her: parents and sister, Mandy Harry.

Survivors include: sisters, Frankie Coley of Wewoka, Laurie Owl, Shawna Groves both of Seminole, Mary Brown of Wewoka; a special aunt, Molsie Palmer of Wewoka and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Micah Tarkington, Tyler Combs, Michael Palmer, Tony Palmer, T.J. Bruner, and Tommy Jesse.

Honorary pallbearers were: Jonathan Owl, Cory Groves, Donnie Groves, Jonathan Brown, Zane Tarkington, Bladen Combs, Kayson Groves and Rylan Groves.

The body was taken to Spring Baptist Church July 30, 2015 for a funeral service with Rev. Frank Moppin and Rev. Kellos Walker officiating. Burial followed at Palmer-Harjo Family Cemetery in Sasakwa.

Martha requested no wake service and a closed casket.

Arrangements by Stout-Phillips Funeral Home.

An Online Guestbook is available at PhillipsFuneralService.com.



APOLOGY

To the casino management,

I apologize for taking the Cherokee Nation's funds. It was very unprofessional of me to do. You gave me simple instructions to not take anything and abide by the rules but I took it willingly. It was not a smart move and I knew there were cameras on me but I decided to do it anyway. I was wrong for what I did. If I could go back, I wouldn't have taken anything and just worked like I was doing. But I'm going to take this time to work as hard as I can to pay back every penny I took.

To the casino management, thank you for hiring me and giving me the opportunity to work for you at the casino. I definitely have learned from what I have done and hopefully, we will get past this and you can forgive me in the future.

Sincerely, Cherokee Howze

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MNN DEADLINES

Sept. 1 — Aug. 24

Sept. 15 — Sept. 8

Oct. 1 — Sept. 24

0ct. 15 - 0ct. 7

Nov. 1 - 0ct. 23

Nov. 15 — Nov. 6

OCMA CANDIDATE FORUM SET FOR AUG. 22

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set a candidate forum for MCN chief and National Council candidates Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the community room in the OCMA center, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK.

All citizens in OKC and the surrounding areas are invited and refreshments will be served.

For more information call: 405-605-2621.

SRO PROGRAM FAIR SET FOR SEPT. 2

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office has set a program fair for Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the SRO, 333 S. Wetumka, OK 74883.

For more information, contact Darleata Tiger at: 405-452-1102 or dtiger@mcn-nsn.gov.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR SEPT. 7

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Marshall family reunion is set for Sept. 7 from 12-3 p.m. at Nichols Park in Henryetta. Bring a door prize and picnic items. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served.

For more information, call Judy Montiel at: 918-752-5602.

TCIC OFFICER ELECTION

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election Sept. 17 from 6-8 p.m. for the positions of: vice-chairman, secretary/ treasurer and sergeant-at-arms.

If the constitution is approved, the secretary/treasurer position will be combined.

Deadline for letters of intent stating the position you are seeking and \$20 for a background check are due Aug. 27,

For more information call Roman Powell at: 918-298-2464.

SRO schedule

MCN SRO/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The following is the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Southern Regional Office schedule for the remainder of August.

Aug. 18, 25 Tax Commission 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

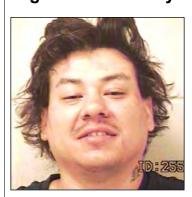
Lunch 11-11:30 a.m.

Aug. 26

Social Services along with **Employment and Training** Closed

For more information call: 405-452-1100.

Hawkins in **Lighthorse custody**



OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General's Office was informed July 29 by MCN Lighthorse that Daniel Ray Hawkins was in LH custody.

Hawkins was convicted of several charges on two separate dates in MCN District Court and McIntosh County Jail failed to hand him over to LH upon his completion of a sentence for crimes he was convicted of in that jurisdiction.

MCN election dates

MCN Election Board/Release

Aug. 27 — Absentee ballot request forms due to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election

Sept. 9 — Precinct voter registration closes at 5 p.m.

Sept. 19 — Primary election

For more information, call the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board at: 918-732-

Aug. 1 word search solution

MCN employee nominated to Oklahoma Child Death Review Board

MCN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration Director Carmin Tecumseh-Williams was chosen by the State of Oklahoma Native American Liaison's Office to fill the tribal representative seat for the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board (OCDRB).

Tecumseh-Williams received the nomination from Oklahoma Native American Liaison and

Secretary of State Chris Benge and Deputy Assistant of Native American Affairs Brian Hen-

"To me, it's a privilege to be able to serve on this board to make a difference and hopefully be effective in all of our communities," Tecumseh-Williams said. "I believe that because of what the Child Death Review Board does and because of the statistics that they gather that it does save

Tecumseh-Williams will serve

on OCDRB for two years.

This will be Tecumeh-Williams' second term to sit on the board.

OCDRB is comprised of 27 members that include physicians, social workers, medical examiners and state officials.

OCDRB aims to reduce the number of preventable child deaths by reviewing each case, collecting statistical data and recommending changes to improve policies and procedures in varies agencies and systems.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit opens Wetumka satellite office

MCN/Media Release

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority is expanding its services to the Wetumka area. Transit hosted the grand opening of its satellite location Aug. 10 at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

The MCN Transit Authority provides transportation services across the 11-county jurisdiction to citizens, Native Americans and the general public.

The new location features an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant van and bus, two drivers and a dispatcher. "We've been trying to expand

in that area through the transit system," MCN Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge said. "We're trying to branch out because our ridership numbers keep growing."

Regular office hours for the satellite location are from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The cost for a one-way trip within the Wetumka city limits is \$0.50. Transit charges \$7 per trip for each county line crossed.

The MCN Transit Authority completes an estimated 80,000 rides per year and possesses a fleet of 22 vehicles including buses, vans, trolley and ADA compliant vehicles.

To request MCN Transit Authority services or inquire about cost for services, contact: 918-732-7909.

Rep. Jerry McPeak named outstanding legislator by **Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association**



Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak during his swearing in ceremony.

MCN tax commissioner and citizen recognized

State of Oklahoma/Media Release

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry McPeak was recognized at the 2015 Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association annual meeting recently as the 'Outstanding Legislator of Oklahoma.'

The award was presented by Michael Kelsey, executive director of the association and master of ceremonies.

Kelsey, while making the presentation, talked about the sacrifice all legislators make, then pointed out that he and the cattlemen in particular appreciated McPeak's no-nonsense approach and the common sense he applies while advocating for issues for the people.

McPeak was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2005 in what was called by political insiders an upset, as he beat incumbent Republican rising star Stuart Ericson.

However, people who know McPeak and his family weren't surprised.

Then-Rep. Don Armes, a Re-

publican ex-FFA instructor, said, "I tried to tell them. The political folks thought because he hadn't been around politics, he wouldn't be a serious contender. I told them everyone knows him and the kids love him."

At the State Capitol, McPeak serves on several committees, including the powerful Appropriations and Budget Committee, as well as the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Transportation Committee.

McPeak also is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and serves as the tribe's tax commis-

Jerry; his wife, Veda; his sons, daughters and their families run commercial cattle in the Warner/Checotah area and also produce show calves that are exhibited nationwide.

In the legislature, McPeak has long been a champion for beef cattle producers; his most recent stand was sponsoring a resolution in opposition to the EPA's Waters of the United States rule.

He currently serves as minority caucus chairman, and the Cattlemen's Association is working with his office to sponsor one of the first caucus meetings of the 2016 session. As part of the OCA announce-

ment, Kelsey said this, "Prior to his election, Representative McPeak was known by another title: teacher and coach.

Most of us here tonight are well-familiar with the great success he had at Connors State College as the livestock judging coach. I suspect there are many of his former students in this very room.

In addition to his influence as a coach, McPeak began the 'Be A Champ' show camps teaching young livestock showmen not only the skills of showing but also leadership and positive life development attributes.

"But if you talk with Coach, you will find out quickly that he doesn't measure his success by the awards his teams won or how many camps he has hosted. Rather, he attributes his success to the leadership and positive roles his students have aspired to in their lives.

"He approaches his responsibility as a representative the same way. It isn't how many bills his name is on, but rather how well he represents his constituents, his commitment to stand for what he believes is right, and his hard work for the common good."

McPeak was surprised when the announcement was made.

"Veda, my wife, knew. Janice, my legislative assistant at the Capitol, knew. But I had no clue. Being recognized by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association was about as good as it gets in my world. I fight a lot of fights up there. I am flattered and very appreciative of the recognition.

"But I am telling you, my family works hard and is loyal beyond what most folks can imagine. The people at home and the kids I have gotten to work with over the years have all been a huge part of what I am and try

McPeak can be reached at: 405-557-7302 or by email at: jerrymcpeak@okhouse.gov.

Muscogee (Creek) duo describe life as homeless



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizens Deano McCombs (left) and Jerry Scott (right) visit Iron Gate soup kitchen for help while living on the streets of Tulsa, Okla.

McCombs, Scott give personal experiences

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The plan for Muscogee (Creek) citizens Deano McCombs' and Jerry Scott's day was to get break fast and go to Walmart to look for a bag. McCombs explained that a lot of people steal backpacks. "You've got to start all back over again," McCombs said. He has been living on the streets intermittently

since was 14-years-old. Mc-Combs was born in Tulsa and described his life as bad. "A lot of bad things happened in my life. I just quit working and started living on the streets. Turned into a real

bad alcoholic," McCombs said. McCombs said he sobered up about a month ago because he was tired of going to a hospital or to jail. He has started drawing again. Scott is from Weleetka but moved to Tulsa when he was 10-years-old and has been homeless for the past eight years. He is the youngest of seven boys.

"My mom wanted a little girl and then my oldest brother said, 'Oh, here's you a little girl.' 'God dang.' I said, 'One of these days, I am going to knock the heck out of you," Scott said.

Scott said that when he was young, he used to ride bulls at rodeos and his regular job was as an electronic technician. Now, he is trying to get on Social Security for disability because he suffers from multiple chronic arthritis.

"I can't hardly do things I need to do with my hands, my wrists, all that stuff," Scott said.

McCombs said there are 'quite a few' Native Americans on the streets. Most people stay in groups of five to eight people but he just partners with Scott.

"It is kind of dangerous to run by yourself, a lot of things happen," McCombs When asked if living on

the streets was scary, Mc-

Combs said, "After years of it, you get used to it but I guess when you first start out." They look for

comers to the streets. "We watch out for them and show them the places to eat," McCombs said. "We don't turn them away." McCombs said

not always easy. "Sometimes, we get real down and out. Wake up soaking wet,

freezing. Lose our backpacks full of clothes," McCombs said. McCombs said it hard to get into a shelter.

"There are enough places that feed you, but they got all these people doing K2 (synthetic marijuana) and stuff getting [shelters] closed down... You have to be paralyzed or half-dead before you can receive help," McCombs said.

Most days after ting breakfast, they wait to see what the day will bring.

"We just ride it out like a rodeo, you ride what you can," Scott said.

HOMELESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

night in the U.S. and of that number, 216,197 are people in families and 362,163 are individuals.

Some clients of RiP, which helps citizens who are re-entering society after incarceration, have experienced homelessness and so Williams and Green thought it would be a great way to see the struggles the homeless have to deal with on an everyday basis.

"The purpose of the project is we're basically looking at it to try to see what really goes on down in the homeless community... see if they have any outlets," Williams said. "If anyone calls us and wonder where they're going to go and what they're going to do, we can tell them. We can have a better insight on what channels they can go through to actually survive as a homeless person."

About 15 percent of the homeless population is considered chronically homeless and nine percent are veterans.

Chronically homeless people are among the most vulnerable people in the homeless population.

They tend to have high rates of behavioral health problems, including severe mental illness and substance abuse disorders, conditions that may be exacerbated by physical illness, injury or trauma.

"There's a struggle out there today that people drive by and ignore because maybe they think they're lazy and don't want to work in reality there's probably some mental issues," Green said.

Williams and Green dedicated two months to getting ready for their project by not cutting their hair and beards to look the part and even quit showering days before the project started.

There were some concerns before the project started.

"The heat is going to be nighttime, where are we going to sleep at and maybe who we are going to encounter," William

Green shared his thoughts.

"I don't think you can prepare for it... Learn like every other homeless person had to learn to; how to live, how to be on the streets," Green said. "I don't think you can be mentally or physically prepared for it at all."

Green spoke about what he hopes to take away from the experience.

"A different way to survive is one thing I'll learn. I've never been in this type of atmosphere and it's going to put me into a different real of life and hopefully appreciate each day of my life after this a little bit more," Green said.

Williams spoke of what he hopes to take away.

"Even though it's only for the weekend, it'll be enough to where I can take that and use that for me to better myself for the future," Williams said.

Day 1

On the day of their departure, Williams and Green were as prepared as they could be, only taking with them: one change in clothes, a sleeping bag, water jug, \$20 and a knife for protection.

Williams and Green then transformed into 'Diego and Ray' respectively, a couple of neighbors that experienced hard times and were forced to live on the streets, traveling from Oklahoma City to Tulsa in hope of a better life.

The two were dropped off miles away and walked across

the bridge into downtown Tulsa.

Within the first few hours of their journey, they already found themselves in a situation where others were not welcoming to

"I think it was kind of their territory so we noticed it pretty quick," Williams said.

After that experience, the two continued on their way to meet other homeless and for the most part, they were very accepting of Diego and Ray and gave them helpful advice on where to stay

Williams and Green learned quickly that most homeless hide their belongings and go back to them at a later time since they were forced to carry all of their things on a hot summer day.

They searched for shade to keep out of the sun and did not make it to the shelter in time and were forced to sleep outside.

Throughout the night, they searched for a place to sleep, taking turns to ensure each other's safety.

They finally found a park bench to sit and rest on but were soon confronted by an officer and were forced to leave or face being arrested.

Day 2

Night turned into day and they set forth to find a soup kitchen to replenish them.

They then met up with another person disguised as homeless (see first person story beginning on page nine) and took a walk to experience all of the other aspects of being homeless.

Things as simple as using the bathroom became an issue because there were only a few places willing to let the homeless use the bathroom.

"You got a schedule of where you can eat at, where you can get your drinks at, when you can use the restroom and the rest of it just nothing," Green said.

Green spoke of sitting on a bench seeing drug use so the two got their things and left.

"We ran into a lot of different the number one factor. The homeless people, a lot of different styles of homeless people," Williams said.

> Some were open about issues in their lives such as violence, drug use, prostitution and mental illness.

"We met a guy that was actually in Vinita for a long time. He was very interesting to talk to," Green said. "He was very open about his violence and I think that was a shield of keeping people away from him."

Day 3

After 17 miles of walking, exhaustion, dehydration and being sunburned, the homeless project was completed.

The two anxiously awaited their ride to get picked up.

"We was riding back in the vehicle; it's a different world sitting in a air conditioned car versus sitting on the street," Green said. "You just see things differently and definitely will appreciate the smaller things in life."

Williams and Green reflected over the three-day experience.

"One of the hardest parts for me I guess, what the physical and mental part of knowing the next day you didn't really have anything to look forward to," Green said.

The two knew they were going to go home but that still did not change their mindset about that weekend.

"It's been a real humbling experience now that we're been through it. Now that we've got to know a couple of them, it's almost like we're going to wonder what happens to them," Williams said.

Homeless Native American shares story at Iron Gate

Destitute but determined

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — A brawny man wore a red shirt and a determined look on his face. He ate breakfast at one of the crowded tables at Iron Gate soup kitchen and food pantry in downtown Tulsa.

His name is Arlo Chisum. Muscogee (Creek), Pueblo and Paiute, Chisum is from California, but his father is from Oklahoma and his mother, New Mexico.

For now, he and his brother are staying wherever they can because they lost their apartment a month

He has been unemployed for the last four months because of a knee injury, but is looking for work.

"I usually come down here, get something to eat and go back to the temp service and ing," Chisum said. "That way you know, wait for work. I don't have a vehicle so that is my only way of getting around to get work right now," Chisum said.

He said his brother is working for both of them.

"I always make sure we always have food or something to eat, you know? That way the money he makes, we try to set it aside so we can get another place," Chisum said.

His parents get angry with him because he will not ask for help. "I know I could go down to Creek Nation and get help from them, but it won't do any

good if only one of us is work-I know we can afford to pay for the place for ourselves." He said he would only take

what he needs because there are others who are in more need.

"I am a grown man and I have been sufficient all my life," Chisum said. "I know when I am capable of working, I will go out and work. I will earn my way."



BITTHEW PROMOND DW WHIP HOMENDES PROSSE

An afternoon with RiP's informational experiment

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

TULSA, Okla. — I met up with Sprint Williams (Diego) and Kevin Green (Ray) the afternoon of July 18 near the Day Center in Tulsa to get a firsthand account of their Homeless Project learning experiment through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration

I had to immediately introduce myself in character as 'Ruby' to Ray and Diego since a woman was with them when I walked up.

When I introduced myself to this lady, the very notion of this formality seemed absurd to her as if it really didn't matter.

It occurred to me that this might have been the first time in a while that anyone bothered to ask her name.

As a 'new acquaintance' to the guys, I steered them towards a nearby paved trail I frequent on my weekends.

It has quite a few homeless camps along the way, both up under the overpasses and down in the ditches on the other side of the highway that runs parallel to the path at the beginning.

The woman did not follow us and they said she had just walked up to them and did not really interact. They shared more insight on this behavior later.

I figured we would start by catching up a little on the project up until then while I led them to where some of the homeless

reside when not out and about in the central downtown area.

After a short break, we made our way to the trail along Riverside Drive. The Tokyo in Tulsa, Japanese pop culture convention was going on that weekend. We encountered many people in cosplay (costume play) outfits intermixed with the general public and homeless.

We took another break along the Arkansas River and lay in the grass while vultures circled overhead. We were passed by couples, fitness nuts and more homeless in transit.

We made our way back to the hotel to get water, where their dispatch, fellow RiP employee, Case Aide Tashina Gilley was staying for support and communication throughout the weekend.

This was the roughest part of the afternoon, as we walked in the heat of the day on that Saturday, when the high was 97 degrees.

I only stayed with the guys three hours out of their three days and all together, none of us could honestly say we still really knew what it was like to be homeless.

I'm sure if we did, we wouldn't have put the unnecessary strain on ourselves by walking during this time of day as most of the homeless we encountered stayed put in the shade.

I'm sure I wore Sprint and Kevin out with this venture, as they were half way through the project at that time.

We finally made it to the hotel for their short break and I stopped to get the following interview while our minds were still fresh from the experience.

Then said maybe he'd meet up with us a little later.

What kind of information did he give you?

Sprint: Just what time Iron Gate closes and what time John 3:16 closes. How the Day Center is, what time you need to be

Kevin: Which one gives out food, which one doesn't.

Sprint: He said the Day Center, he said he's been in the streets for 12 years, 12 years ago it was a lot better than it is now from what he said.

His answers were like, 'Eh, it's alright; they do OK.'

He did praise Iron Gate a lot. He said they give you groceries and he goes down there about every day.

Kevin: No, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays are the feeding days.

Do you guys see probably spending most of your time every day just taking care of your basic needs and having trouble ever coming up?

It looks like you have to plan your whole day around your shelter, as opposed to where it is in reference to your food and where you go pee. Is that taking up a lot of your time, just basic

Sprint: It has. I think we found a couple spots and benches where there's constant shade between these buildings and there's a lot of wind in between there so we try to spend our time there.

Last night, I had to go to the bathroom and that was kind of a struggle.

Kevin: And, the fireworks were really big to them. That was a really big treat.

At ONEOK?

Kevin: Yeah, I think everyone we talked to talked about the fireworks. They found that to be pretty exciting. After they were scared by the first pop thinking it was gunshots.

Also, we were lying on the bench and could hear a guy playing guitar singing Christian music and doing a really good on out before they wanted us to share.

Sprint: So that ended our nap today. We scooted on out pretty

So you're just seeing all kinds of worlds trying to deal with the same one it sounds like.

Sprint: What we found too is when we're in a pair, we're less likely to deal with as much problems. Uh, if we went on this solo, I think our problems would increase as far as people walking up and giving us a hard time.

They really haven't done it near as much. They've just been more curious as to who we are and also, friendly. We haven't had any altercations with anyone.

Even a guy last night... two Christian girls, Anna and Alex go down to the Blue Dome and pray for people. They prayed for us and then we kind of talked to them for about 10 minutes and asked them if they've had any problems.

They said a guy had cussed them out and it was a guy in a blue T-shirt and we'd seen that guy 30 minutes before that. He was kind of asking us some questions and different things but we didn't agitate him or anything. He was nice to us but he didn't want them praying for him.

There are different triggers for different people but for the most part, we didn't have any trouble.

Kevin: Also, we got up here yesterday morning and by that afternoon; quite a few of them had seen us. So therefore, 'Hey, did you just get off the bus?' So they knew they had a new homeless person in the downtown area.

They're very...

Sprint: Observant.

Kevin: Yeah.

Sprint: Yesterday, they saw us at Iron Gate and that kind of got us in the club a little bit.

Kevin: There are different groups. There are some by race and there are some that will just mix no matter what because they share a drug addiction.

I noticed a girl will get next to a guy pretty quick, maybe for protection and look like he might take advantage of the situation or profit from it.

If you guys were going on with this, what kind of provisions and long term planning would you make for yourselves? If it wasn't just for this weekend, what kind of moves would you start making?

Kevin: I'd probably have to find some kind of substance abuse to be honest. Because doing it straight sober is tough and draining and you have to constantly be on the lookout.

I think long term, it's going to wear on you. It's hard to see hope each day no matter what the weather is wondering if you're going to eat, use a bathroom and things like that. I'm surprised suicide isn't at a higher rate with the homeless.

Well that leads to another questions. How are you going to support your habit?

Sprint: Do a lot of panhandling, a lot of hustling.

Kevin: Yeah, you always hear from people coming out of prison that they have that hustle in them.

You see it today, if you don't have that you're going to be at the bottom of the food chain of the homeless. You have to find your little niche in this area and hustle to do what you have to.

Sprint: For some of them

o you guys are half way through the weekend now. How are you feeling?

Sprint: Tired, dehydrated. We knew the heat was probably going to be our toughest battle. Small break here and we're ready to truck on tomorrow.

What insight have you guys gathered from this so far?

Kevin: There are different levels of homelessness. There's some that live out of their car, some that live on the street, some in shelters, some are transients.

Sprint: Being at Iron Gate and the Day Center both today, just seeing the difference in people. We didn't know it is as diverse as it is. The whole thing is pretty overwhelming after we saw it at Iron Gate.

Some of them are in nicer cars just getting out and some of them don't have a car.

Some of them are kind of out of it in their mental capacity. We had a guy borrow a couple quarters from us and try and play 'quarters' by bouncing them into his wallet.

We started talking to him and mid-conversation he stops us, says he has a call and puts his finger up to his ear and started talking to himself.

It has been an experience.

What are you missing from your normal life?

Kevin: Just the small things. Being able to get a drink when you want. The biggest thing is the restroom. They have no restrooms downtown for a nonpaying customer anywhere.

You have to know when these shelters are opened and closed to be able to use the bathroom.

Sprint: Plus when we did venture to a couple of places to try and do that, the look on some people's faces, it was like, 'Wait a minute; it's not that kind of place. There might be another for you guys but not here.'

We've had to adapt to that too. Where normally we wouldn't have a problem being able to walk in and out of places and now

we're looked at a little differently. It seems like security is always on top of us.

How has your perception of yourself changed as you're walking among people as opposed to two days ago?

Sprint: Normally I'm more outgoing and more confident as opposed to now because my attire and probably the stench on both of us.

It'll bring your confidence level down and the likelihood of us actually cooperating with regular people is very minimal. You say 'hi' to them and it's, 'uh hello' or, 'oh hey.' They don't really want to stop and talk to you. It's just, 'I wish this guy would stop talking to me' and walk off.

Now how has that gone on the other side of the tracks?

Kevin: Well we met Trey today. He was... what was he?

Sprint: Oh, he's half Pawnee and half Choctaw.

Kevin: He's like five-foot-one. He talked about his meth, no crank (slang for meth) addiction. 'Since the '90s, there hasn't been any good crank on the streets since the blue and red crank is gone. It's all watered down.'

Sprint: 'Can't find that red crank anymore.'

Is that what he fell off for? Drugs?

Kevin: Yeah, he was...

Sprint: Missing a lot of teeth.

Kevin: Yeah, missing a lot of teeth and just so burnt out he probably couldn't hold a job on a day-to-day basis.

And another thing with the homeless, it's only one name. There is no first and last name with people. They only have one name and that's all they want to give you.

You start asking too many questions too quick before you build that trust with them and they're a little antsy.

We have a guy name Fish that actually comes and talks to us now when he sees us. We don't have to approach him; he approaches us.

Sprint: And he's been helping

us by, what times things close and what not. He's actually coming back and giving us information.

We've gained his trust and he's been with us both days.

Where's your meet up spot?

Sprint: 5th and Main.

We were sitting on a bench at 5th and Main and he was sitting on another one and walked up to ask us for a lighter. The conversation just started from there and then he walked to

another bench. We saw him a little later and then talked to him. Then today, he approached us and said, 'Hey fellas what's going on?' But had to leave to go somewhere.

Kevin: He had to go use the bathroom.

Sprint: Yeah, and he knew



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration Program employees Kevin Green who went undercover as Ray (left) and Sprint Williams (right) who went as Diego, for the RiP Homeless Project July 17-19 in downtown Tulsa, Okla.

there were only certain spots that you could.

He didn't say, 'see you later' or anything like that but then he came back and was giving us information and talking to us. job. And as we kind of wake up a little bit, there's a lady and three guys on a bench in front of us and she pulls out a syringe.

And that's when I told Sprint that we probably need to ease

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FIRSTHAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

that are down here and have the mental capacity, I don't know why they don't work and save a little to go west. Maybe go to California where the weather's better.

That's what I would try and do. **Kevin:** We asked Fish that today and he really didn't have an answer for us.

Sprint: Why he keeps staying here. He told us he has a brother in Atlanta that keeps telling him to come down. He said he keeps thinking about doing it but he hasn't done it yet.

Maybe he's just used to Tulsa. **Kevin:** That and maybe he's embarrassed. You have to face your relatives and maybe they start preaching on you.

Sprint: That's why we're just trying to be friendly with them and not tell them what to do or how they need to do things. We're just trying to observe really and see how they live and interact with them.

Weighing against people looking at you and judging you, could you see even with your upbringing, if the panhandling game didn't make it for you, maybe turning to crime at some point?

Kevin: You can't say no because you don't know where you're going to be. Maybe a cold night if you need to break into a business. I don't think you could say no but you'd try your best not to.

'Give me a shot for two weeks and if you don't like me just fire me,' then stay close to John 3:16 or the Day Center all the time.

If that didn't work, I don't know what you'd do every day then just get up and do it. Since coming from where we're at, it would be hard to not just check out after a while.

It would be hard to stay sober and it would be hard not to give

We had a guy come by with a shirt and kind of a Sunday vest and we asked him how he was. It's sad because it wasn't like really nice stuff but he said, 'I'm trying; I'm trying,' and just walked off.

I told Kevin, I don't know if mentally, that guy will ever make it. He will probably never have a working job.

He really did look like he was going to try and do something. We don't know what it was but it would be tough.

We had a conversation earlier about their department speaking at Harvard last year that, given the setting where it took place, led to one about some intelligent, eccentric academics that don't seem to function well in any other environment than a collegiate one.

Kevin: We were talking earlier about the Harvard, MIT and how smart some of those people are to the point that they can't function in a work society.

Even some of these people could physically do the work; I don't think they could function in a structured society.

I see some that is like, 'Man, *Sprint:* In the wintertime I he could work.' But in reality, the they maybe have a homeless code where they don't mess with people's stuff.

One guy, we saw him leaving stuff. He put it by a storage thing and six hours later we walked by and it was still there.

Can you guys imagine leaving your house unlocked and the door open everyday?

Sprint: No I can't. That's what I'm saying.

We could have just picked up his sack and had a couple of shirts and walked off.

Some people could have used that but they just left it there like, 'Well we know where this guy hangs out so we don't want to do that to him.

We thought it was interesting. Kevin: We walked by a big group of homeless by the blood plasma place today so they're definitely selling that.

And you're giving part of your energy just to make ends and get more right?

Kevin: Yes.

Sprint: And that's just if your blood is clean. It's a struggle for these guys.

Kevin: But they all have cell phones.

I know just buying the Gatorades today was eight bucks. If you've got to get around somewhere you have to be thinking about your calories, how much you're sweating just for basic survival and everyone we've seen today isn't going anywhere.

They're staying under trees.



Sterling Cosper/MNN

don't know how it is.

Say you were doing something and they ran out of beds at the centers and it's nine degrees outside, you'd be hard pressed to not just go to a car that's parked and knock the window out to sleep in the back seat. Just to be a little warmer.

I bet the winter would be a different animal out here.

Just the three hours I've spent with you guys, you think of the wilderness when you watch those survival shows but it's kind of the same situation with

Sprint: What did you call it yesterday?

Kevin: Prison with no boundaries. You've got your young bucks that pretty much try to intimidate the older guys. Even though you're free to go wherever, physically, mentally, financially you're pretty much bound to this area.

Well Sprint, I'll start over with you. What would you do if you found yourself stuck out here?

Sprint: We would just have to hustle at the beginning. But after that, I would try to work to get somewhere. Gain some kind of employment and maybe say,

mental capacity is not there.

More on the road of trying to come up, can you see a hard balancing act? Because you have to put an address down on an application; you have to be washed somewhat; you have to be fed so how do you break through that, maintain it and come up another level in society?

Sprint: That's where you have to lean on your resources. The churches and everything to where you get just clean enough to even go and put in an application.

It would be hard to just maybe walk up on a construction site and try and work there not knowing anything but you'd have to try something. Because a lot of the downtown area, they don't

have a lot of jobs. You would maybe have to go and try and clean windows or something where you wouldn't be seen for a while. You'd be starting from the bottom.

Even Fish who has done this for so long is still struggling. He's not one of the upper ones. He's got his stuff somewhere.

That's another thing. They have their stuff somewhere but a lot of them aren't carrying anything. So wherever, they hang out at How can you go anywhere if you're not moving around so to speak?

Sprint: It's easy to say, 'I would go here and there to apply for this job or that job,' but like you said in this heat, how are they going to go from place to place if they don't have money to get anything?

How are they going to stay hydrated or keep any food down?

Or how are you going to go to a job interview if you get showered and end up just like you were by the time you get

So what is the number one thing you're looking forward to when you get home tomorrow?

Sprint: Shower

Kevin: Shower, shave, some Gold Bond.

Sprint: Monday we have off and I'm just going to lie around.

You think you'll be more grateful for your jobs?

Sprint: Oh yeah. I was telling them, being out here you have all the time in the world that really sucks compared to what work is. It's fun to go to work.

We'll definitely be more appreciative I think.

Homeless project: A morning at Iron Gate

Two perspectives on homelessness

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The temperature was 84 degrees and steadily climbing July 18 when Iron Gate opened their doors.

In walked a crowd of diverse people, some wiping the sweat off their foreheads and absorbing as much as they could of the cool temperature inside.

A few minutes later, the guests got in line to see what was on the menu for that day. Iron Gate, located within

the Trinity Episcopal Church, is a soup kitchen that has one simple mission, to feed hungry people.

While some might have the opportunity to eat again later in the day, others know that this is their only meal and do their best to savor the food and enjoy the cool air.

When the cafeteria is full, some of the patrons decide to take their meal outdoors where they can eat at the picnic tables. Here is where I met two people who frequent Iron Gate.

The first man that talks goes by Toppah. He is 40-years-old, Kiowa and from the Anadarko area. Toppah says that he has been on the streets for over though, constantly moving" Toppah said. "You learn to be a light sleeper. You do not want someone to rob you or try to beat you up. You have to make sure to listen for anything."

Toppah has family in the area and that will help him but he does not want to inconvenience them.

"I stayed with my sister for a few days after I got out of the hospital," Toppah said. "After a while, I felt like I was being a bother so I left."

Toppah said it is extremely hard to live out on the streets but it is also hard to get off of

"I do everything I can to get a job and keep the job," Toppah said. "A lot of employers do not want someone like us (he points to the other homeless people), like me. Day laborers will take us because we will work for them and work hard."

Toppah spoke about having friends while on the streets.

"I have two or three friends, but a lot of associates," Toppah said. "Not everybody will be your friend, if you believe that, then you are stupid."

He said that his friends will watch over him, and not rip him off. The associates will say they are friends but take advantage of him without think-

CIt can be a scary place out here. You have to always be ready for anything. It is not safe out here."

— Toppah

seven years.

"It is the drinking," Toppah says. "It got very bad when I got out here."

Toppah brings up another reason why he is homeless.

"Child support is an issue for me too," he says. "I can make enough to make the payment but all my money goes to that and so I do not have a place to

Toppah said that he makes the payment and then spends most of what he has left on drinking, hoping to have enough to purchase a room for the night afterwards.

Toppah said he commonly works day laborer positions for

"So I go up there and they use me and that is how I get my money," Toppah said. "Other times it is odd jobs. It is not easy but it does help out."

He explained that he once had steady work building fenc-

During that time, he said the money was good and he had a comfortable place to stay. Work eventually slowed down when winter came and he was let go from his job.

"That's the reason I am back out here," Toppah said.

At the end of the day, when most people have a bed to lay down, relax and go to sleep, Toppah faces a challenge.

"I have to look for a place at night," Toppah said. "If I find a place during the day time and evening, it is easier for me to get caught for trespassing. So I usually wait until it is dark."

Toppah said that he will find a place that is abandoned, any 'nook and cranny' that has enough room to sleep is where he will stay for the night.

"You are always on the move

ing twice.

"I had four tried to fight me last night," Toppah said. "They know I am hurting right now and they tried to take advantage of it. For me, I can hold my own and fought them off."

Toppah had one last thing to say before he gathered his things and headed off to find shade.

"It can be a scary place out here," Toppah said. "You have to always be ready for anything. It is not safe out here."

Toppah directed me towards Creek/Choctaw woman name Cindy. She was comfortable sitting out in the hot sun and enjoying her meal for the day. Cindy does not consider herself homeless.

"I have three places to stay," Cindy said. "They are close to this place. I can sleep among any of those places if I need too."

She loves Iron Gate and frequents this area quite a bit.

"Everyone here does not have a problem with me," Cindy said. "There is another place where you can eat but there is one lady there that does not like me at all. I am thinking of other places to eat instead of that place."

While eating Cindy explained her agenda for the day. She said one of her favorite hobbies is reading so she figures that is a good plan.

"I am going to find a book, find some shade and enjoy what I can out of this day," Cindy said. "If no one bothers me and lets me enjoy my book, then this will be a great day."

After her meal, Cindy gathers everything, says her farewells to everyone she knows and sets off to go find that book and shade.

Council updates 'Disorderly Conduct' code during session

Further forensic audit funding approved

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held July 25 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 15-106 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a graduate research assistantship contract with the University of Alabama for research identifying Muscogee (Creek) affiliated archeological sites. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement approves the conducting of research by UA to assist MCN in preserving historical sites pertinent to its history and culture.

• TR 15-120 Authorizing the principal chief to execute pharmacy provider agreement amendments between the MCN and Humana for the MCN Department of Health, Sapulpa Indian Health Center. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed

The health insurance company has requested amendments to their provider agreement to stay in compliance with state and federal laws to continue services with MCN.

• TR 15-121 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a kidney transplant affiliation agreement between MCN and OU Medical Center for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Hospital Corporations of America Health Services and OU have facilities that can assist MCNDH in providing patient evaluations and renal transplants.

• TR 15-122 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement between MCN and Hillcrest Healthcare System LLC for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Hillcrest owns and operates facilities that can assist MCNDH in effectively managing its services.

• TR 15-123 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a purchase order/quote and standard terms of service between MCN and Blackboard for the purpose of providing voice, text and email messaging services for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH requires these communication services for the quick and broad sharing of important information to employees and Blackboard can provide this.

• TR 15-125 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the City of Eufaula. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides funding for the construction and improvement of roadways serving Indian communities and it is in the best interest of the Nation to enter into agreements, which clarify the maintenance responsibilities of these roadways that received maintenance through the MCN Trib-

al Transportation Program.

• TR 15-126 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a dollars on the net service agreement with Shift4 Corporation for credit, debit, private-label, check and gift card transactions for the College of the Muscogee Nation bookstore. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The bookstore will require the ability to process these methods of payment and Shift4 provides the ability to do so.

• TR 15-127 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a mutual confidentiality and nondisclosure agreement between the Chickasaw Nation and MCN. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The MCN and Chickasaw Nation are interested in having a consulting session to show the MCN Controller's Office the procurement practices of the Chickasaw Department of Commerce for the possible acquisition of these services from them.

• TR 15-128 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a change of ownership for petroleum storage tanks with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission Petroleum Storage Tank Division for a tank located at the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

An existing petroleum tank is registered under the previous

and Children Program. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This agreement allows MCN to apply for fiscal year 2016 funding for this program.

• TR 15-132 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a gas line extension agreement with Oklahoma Natural Gas Company for the purpose of providing service to the Okemah Hospital. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN needs this agreement to have the gas line extended to the Nation's new hospital.

• TR 15-133 Confirming the re-nomination of Dan Kirby to serve as the athletic commissioner. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN law requires the principal chief to make this appointment and the Council to consider it for approval.

• NCA 15-146 Appropriating \$218,177.72 to Grant Thornton LLP to facilitate the forensic audit. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The Council authorized the audit Aug. 23, 2014, of the Council, permanent fund, Controller's Office, Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, principal chief, second chief and all tribal funds.

Per the agreement, there is a need to appropriate this amount for the audit services to be rendered to date.

• NCA 15-157 Authorizing

amendment, which passed 14-0. NICCA works to ensure quality childcare for Native children

and requests this amount to help fund it.

• NCA 15-161 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Realty and Trust Department FY 2015 budget. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department requests this modification to reallocate funds for other necessary expenses.

• NCA 15-163 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the organization ECHO. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The ECHO widows support group requests this assistance to continue serving others going through the process of grieving and healing.

• NCA 15-164 Authorizing the expenditure of \$600,000 in MCNDH health investment operating funds for the MCNDH Health Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Program. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH needs approval to expend this amount to reach a \$6 million match for a federal SAMHSA Care Grant.

• NCA 15-165 Authorizing a \$2,970 special appropriation to Bristow Indian Community. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The community needs this



Sterling Cosper/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Michael Coon along with author Sherry Kast addresses the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council July 25 during the Council quarterly session at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Council approved a \$7,500 appropriation to Kast Publishing during the May 17 regular session to fund 'A Soldier's Silent Prayer,' a biography on Michael Coon's father Phillip Coon who survived the Bataan Death March during World War II.

ownership of the rehab center and needs to be changed to reflect MCN ownership.

• TR 15-129 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a Claude Neon Federal Signs agreement for One Fire Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN Code Annotated requires GOAB to get legislative approval to enter into contracts for improvements to real property or buildings exceeding \$50,000.

• TR 15-130 Authorizing GOAB to execute an Oracle master agreement with Micros Fidelio Worldwide LLC. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNCA requires GOAB to get legislative approval to enter into contracts exceeding one year. The board wishes to do this with hospitality and retail software company MICROS.

• TR 15-131 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a federal-state Supplemental Nutrition Programs agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service for the MCN Women, Infants

\$150,839.10 for the MCN Head Start Program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program over expended its FY 2014 supplies line item in this amount to: purchase classroom and building supplies, curriculum materials, maintain facilities to ensure the safety of children and staff, purchase technological equipment for administrative use, pay bills, purchase on-going children assessment materials and the Child Plus Head Start Data Collection System.

• NCA 15-158 Authorizing a \$4.5 million supplemental appropriation for the MCNDH FY 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed

As MCN grows, there is an increasing demand for contract health services and MCNDH needs additional money to keep up with this.

• NCA 15-159 Authorizing a \$20,000 special appropriation for a sponsorship agreement with the National Indian Child Care Association 2015 Biennial Conference. Reps. Shirlene Ade and Jennings sponsored the money to fund their Senior Lawn Mowing Program.

• NCA 15-166 Authorizing a \$4,000 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) student Spencer Torbett plans to eventually work in the U.S. Foreign Services and needs this amount to cover expenses involved in doing an unpaid internship in Washington, D.C., with U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin.

• NCA 15-167 Authorizing a \$28,774 special appropriation to Glenpool Creek Indian Community for repairs and renovations. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The community requests to use remaining funds from a previous appropriation to bring the community activity building kitchen up to code and install industrial equipment they have purchased.

The bathrooms also need to be brought up to code and updated to fix plumbing issues and repair flooding damage.

• NCA 15-168 Amending NCA 13-260 (A law of the MCN authorizing a special appropriation to the GCIC for FY 2014 operating budget). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

This would change NCA 13-260 to have the remaining funds carried forward until expended rather than returned to the tribal treasury.

• NCA 15-169 Amending certain provisions in MCNCA Title 22, Chapter 2, Section 2-101 entitled, 'Disorderly Conduct.' Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment adds the following to be considered as disorderly conduct:

Trespassing onto the real property of MCN or another person by crossing the boundary of or remaining on said property after receiving notice that such crossing or remaining is forbidden through:

Expressed communication to the actor, posting in a manner likely to be noticed or a ban from a gaming facility issued by the Office of Public Gaming, the gaming facility's management or its duly authorized representative or by an actor entering a gaming facility in violation of MCN gaming laws or regulations.

• NCA 15-171 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Lighthorse Administration Explorers Program FY 2015 budget. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program wishes to make this modification to reallocate excess funds for supplies, travel, uniforms, accessories and communications/ other.

• NCA 15-173 Authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000 for the MCN Tribal Driveways Program. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed

The program, which replaces dilapidated driveways for Muscogee (Creek) property owners and also assists citizens with burial services, has an increased workload and needs funding for additional supplies.

• NCA 15-174 Authorizing a \$5,901 appropriation to Covenant Harvest Ministries. Hill sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

Jack was excused.

The upcoming regular session is scheduled Aug. 29.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the 2010 MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN District Court website at: www. muscogeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

#MCNVOTE2015 — Primary: Sept. 19 / General Nov. 2

MCN principal chief candidates

James Floyd Principal Chief

Clan: Wind Tribal Town: Koweta

Ceremonial Ground: Tvlahasse/Wvkokaye **Education/Experience:** Master's degree, post-masters certifications, managed \$2 billion budget, 9500 employees — Integrity -Top Secret Security Clearance —Teamwork established IHS/VA sharing agreements —



Innovation - Created VA/ tribal reimbursement and telehealth programs

Platform: While establishing successful programs for tribes nationally, my heart remained here, hoping to return to serve our tribe. I have acquired unique skills to better utilize current investments and improve efficiency of service delivery, with full financial and personnel accountability, through 35 years senior executive expertise with Veterans Health, IHS and MCN. Not accepting donations - just your vote. MVTO.

Contact information: 918-671-7008, Floyd2015.com

Adam Jones III Principal Chief

Clan: Bear Tribal Town: Koweta

Church: Little Coweta Indian Baptist

Education/Experience: Associate degree in business, owner Jones Construction and current McIntosh District Council representative. Eight years National Council

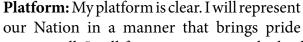


Platform: I am 44, married 14 years to my wife, Amanda. We have five children and raise them in Stidham. This has given me insight to make needed changes. Areas include healthcare, economic development and education. I seek to provide our children with a secure future and become self-reliant. I will work hard for you, because all our children depend on it. You can't have change by adding more of the same. MVTO!

David Nichols Principal Chief

Clan: Wotko (Racoon) Tribal Town: Tukupvtce

Church: Salt Creek United Indian Methodist Education/Experience: High school/20 years National Council representative



upon us all. I will focus resources on the health, education, housing and the overall welfare of each citizen. I will bring financial accountability to the business practices of our Nation and ensure the business development will engage in benefits of our Nation's citizens. To each action I take as principal chief, I will ask myself 'would the elders and the veterans be proud of this action?' MVTO.



MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar, length and Associated Press style. The following release ran on either pages one or two of the June 15, July 1 and July 15 editions of the 'Muscogee Nation News' as well as other media outlets to inform all candidates of the rules before the filing period. These rules were strictly adhered to with no exceptions: 'MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their 100 total word limit bios. No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material. Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.'

Those with questions or concerns may contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or scosper@mcn-nsn.gov or Mvskoke Media Director Christina Good Voice at: 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.

George Tiger Principal Chief

Clan: HOTVLE (Wind)

Tribal Town: O'CE VPOFV (Hickory

Ground)

Church: Yardeka Indian Baptist

Ceremonial **Ground:** O'CE **VPOFV**

(Hickory Ground)

Education/Experience: Morris HS, Haskell

Indian Junior College, NSU, Honorary

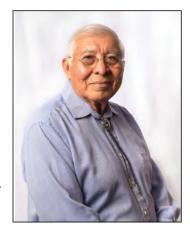
Doctorate - Bacone, Multi-term National Council member, current principal chief, first language and fluent Mvskoke speaker

Platform: Reflects the traditions, culture and language needs of our most valuable and precious resource – our tribal citizens. Increase the wealth of our Nation by expanding opportunities for our citizens, keeping healthcare, education and housing as top priorities and promoting positive economic progress. MVSKOKE ETVLWV'VLKE HESAKETV-MESE OHMERRVS! (May God continue to bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!)

Thomas Yahola Principal Chief

Platform: The responsibility of a principal chief is to exhibit integrity, transparency and accountability in caring for his people.

Today that is maintaining and improving health, education, and a higher standard of living for his people. Being a chief, he must set the example for others to follow. With your vote, this is my pledge to you.



The above listed characteristics have been my lifetime foundation. They were formed by my traditional upbringing, discipline gained in military service and knowledge gained through education and work experiences. I sincerely request your vote for principal chief, MVTO.

MCN National Council Seat A candidates

Shirlene M. Ade Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Katcvlke Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Many Springs Baptist

Education/Experience: Employed 25 years federal government. I worked for IHS, Tinker AFB, Department of the Army (McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant) retired in 2005, two years early to work and serve Creek citizens more effectively. Mother: Elizabeth Narcomey, Holdenville. Father: Frank Lewis, Eufaula.

Platform: We have a challenge to face our future addressing the needs of our Creek Citizens in a modern setting, through innovative and technological means, but it must remain essentially Muskoke Etvlwv. To accomplish this, our government must remain IN an OF our culture and IN and OF our people.

Samuel Scott Alexander Tulsa District

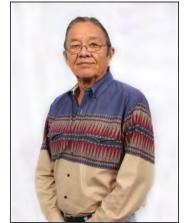
Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Church: Member of Montesoma Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Lives in Broken Arrow. A graduate of Northeastern State College, he manages his CPA practice located in Wagoner. First confirmed tax commissioner (tribal defendant) during tobacco litigation



with Oklahoma, Gaming Operations Authority Board chair when bingo halls converted into casinos, National Council representative for eight years, speaker in 2012-2013, three daughters, two granddaughters, senior athlete, running and basketball.

Platform: His candidacy for National Council representative offers unmatched financial experience, vast tribal background and candor to the concerned voter.

Wilson Bear McIntosh District

Clan: Bear Tribal Town: Eufaula-Canadian **Church:** Protestant **Ceremonial Ground:** Eufaulagee **Education/Experience:** B.S. Psychology/ Sociology

Platform: Health, education, welfare, economic development for smaller

communities that will create jobs, Social Service and Elderly Housing will play a big part as your representative.

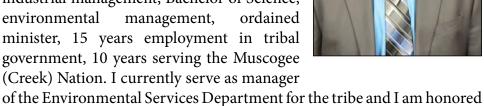


Ceremonial Ground: New Tulsa

Clan: Aktvkculke

Church: New Beginnings Baptist

Education/Experience: Master of Science, industrial management, Bachelor of Science, management, environmental minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee



to work alongside dedicated professionals who continually protect the tribe's resources.

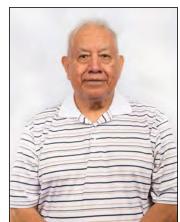
Platform: Resource management and fiscal responsibility — tribal resource protection and fiscal responsibility shall remain my steadfast goal as I continue to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Tony Bell Creek District

Church: Jenks United Methodist **Education/Experience:** Sapulpa High School, OSU Okmulgee, 30 Years in business, I live in Kiefer, Okla., with my wife of 32 years. I have over 20 years of business experience with 10 of those as an executive director for a large retail organization.

Platform: Our Nation has become a large employer in our state and influential in our communities. I believe my experience in business and my reputation for honesty and integrity is crucial to all positions within the tribe for our continued growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

Contact information: Facebook — Tony Bell, 918-321-9511



Hazel A. (Grace) Bunner Okmulgee District

Clan: Bird Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco **Church:** Thlopthlocco Methodist **Education/Experience:** Psychology/ Sociology, tribal government, research and development, real estate

Platform: I am a mother, grandmother and the former wife of a Vietnam veteran. At this

time in our Nation's history, we need to confront and constructively deal with the issues associated with individual and tribally owned lands, our Native veterans, gender equality in the workplace and the least promoted age group, 35-53. As a candidate, I will strive to promote legislation that will reflect the highest public good and not for one individual, business or department.



Franklin Joseph Coachman Okfuskee District

Clan: Nokosulke (Bear Clan) **Tribal Town:** Etvlwv Rakko (Big Town) **Church:** Arbeka United Methodist Ceremonial Ground: Green Leaf Education: Associate Degree in Science Haskell University, Studies at Seminole State College and Oklahoma Baptist University

Platform: As your representative, I will stay committed to making our Nation a stronger one, always looking for the future. I have been honored to serve you as your full-time Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and would like to continue serving in this position with the help of your vote. BANK ON FRANK.



Arlene Harjo Davis Okfuskee District

Clan: Sweet Potato Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce **Church:** Wewoka United Methodist Ceremonial Ground: Alabama Education/Experience: Medical field 34 years, with MCN Department of Health nine years, last five years with the Tobacco Prevention Program

Platform: Health, education and welfare.



Alvin L. Bucktrot Tulsa District

Clan: Tiger

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground, Sand Creek **Education/Experience:** Associate in Applied Science - Okmulgee Tech; U.S. Army National Guard – Water purification specialist, over 35 years journeyman plumber in private, public and government sectors

Platform: It doesn't take a rocket scientist to

follow the Constitution. If elected, my mission will be to progress and excel citizens to become self-sufficient and eradicating barriers that lead to poverty. Every vote I make will ask, "Will this benefit the ENTIRE MCN?" Whether you're a Christian, traditionalist, or non-believer, I urge you to vote.



Johnnie (Chalakee) Greene Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes District

Clan: Wind Tribal Town: Kialegee **Church:** Springtown United Methodist **Education:** Coweta Schools, Haskell Institute, Tulsa Business School

Platform: I will continue to be an advocate for providing quality health care and housing for our elders. A high priority is also helping our

youth continue their education through Higher Education programs and supporting the College of the Muscogee Nation. I also believe preserving our language and culture is imperative in all our communities. First and foremost, I will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution and law.



No challengers filed to face incumbents, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muskogee District Rep. Mose 'Pete' Beaver and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, which gives them an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.

Nelson Scott Harjo Okmulgee District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama Quasarty

Church: Tekopytce

Ceremonial Ground: Alabama Education: Associates applied science

Platform: Community is what we are, a group of people who live together with a shared culture and heritage. Our communities

together form the Mvskoke Nation. Using demographics and statistics allow us to gain insight to work with communities better through business, healthcare and social programs. Citizens are the trunk of the tree of the Mvskoke Nation. Every community today, every community in the future, will need to be strong and self-sufficient in order for us to grow and flourish as a Nation.



Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Ufala
Church: Buckeye Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Mason Public School, OSU-Okmulgee, Cherokee Nation Head Start-Transportation training specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation-Community

Research and Development, MCN Gaming-general manager, Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise-marketing director and general manager

Platform: If elected as the National Council representative of the "Great Muscogee Nation," I plan to utilize my work experience and education to help our tribe/communities to progress forward. It is time for CHANGE! I plan to focus on our healthcare, economic development, education and culture. With your help, we can make a difference! MVTO.



Clan: Beaver (Echaswv)
Tribal Town: New Tulsa
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Depew H.S., Tulsa Air Park, employed in the Aviation Industry for NORDAM 26 years. Supervisor and serving on the College Program Advisory Committee (Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, three years.)



Platform: I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation the next four years and am hopeful that we can have a united government that can work together to bring industry and economic development to our Nation so that we may prosper to meet the health, education and welfare needs of our Nation.

Robert Hufft Tulsa District

Clan: Deer

Church: Asbury Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University with 30 years of corporate experience, over 20 years as controller for a Tulsa company and over 12 years of tribal government experience. I have served as ex-officio to the Gaming Authority Board and served as second speaker to the



National Council as well as served on various committees.

Platform: I believe it's time for the Nation to re-evaluate our resources and assets to provide a plan to our citizens on how to utilize those assets to meet the needs of the citizens and prepare for our future.

Timothy A. Jackson, Jr. Wagoner District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Weogufkee **Church:** First Baptist of Coweta

Education/Experience: Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University; Construction management – project engineer and small business owner – Narcomey Designs, certified associate

constructor of the American Institute, OSU Construction Management Advisory Board member, Associated General Contractor member, Steering Committee member of the Construction Leadership Council

Platform: My purpose is to serve our people, give the government back to our people and gather input from the people for our Nation's future. I will inform our people with complete transparency.

Contact information: 918-344-1949, narcomeydesigns@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/ElectTJackson

David Jimboy Tukvpvtce District

Tribal Town: Tulmochussee (inactive)

Church: Methodist

Education/Experience: Okemah High School, Military 1973-1975, USMC. 3rd Marine Divison 1st Amtrac Bn., Evacuation Operation-Vietnam; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Honorable Discharge. Chickasaw

Nation Health System healthcare security officer 16 years. Served Holdenville Indian Community as vice-

chairperson five years and now chairperson.

Platform: I believe as a member of my community, we need to work as a

team. Birthplace - Sapulpa; Father -William (Bill) Jimboy, Mother-Helen (Harjo) Jimboy; Home - Holdenville. Married to Mrs. Jensie Lee (Powell) Jimboy 35 Years. Father five children, grandfather 14 children, two great-grandchildren.

Rodney Josie Tulsa District

Clan: Deer

Ceremonial Ground: Weogvfke/Muddy

Water

Education/Experience: A.S. business administration, 13 years experience NAHASDA, HUD, ONAP and other housing programs, 10 years experience as environmental professional, eight years experience historic/cultural preservation, 15

years experience construction budgeting/contracts.

Platform: I believe Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. If given the opportunity, I will use my working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance.

Edwin Marshall Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird

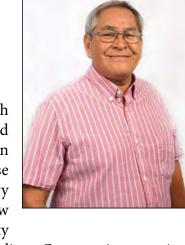
Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce

Church: Alabama Quassarte Indian Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Tukvpvtce (inactive) Education/Experience: Bachelor of social work, ECU. Experience spanning four administrations - Election Board chair, National Council representative, division director, program manager, Constitution Convention vice-chair and chief of staff.



Platform: Citizens indicate a desire to move forward as MCN has the potential for. Political contention and lack of citizen inclusion (along with selective distribution of resources) has caused the majority to become indifferent and disinterested as evidenced by voter apathy. I won't be defined by special interest or politicians and vow to keep the citizens' will as my priority.







Sandra Peters Okmulgee District

Clan: Ancient Mother Clan Wind **Tribal Town:** Arbeka-Tulladega **Church:** Trinity Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: B.A. art education, Master's study-educational psychology and theological studies, past representative, tribal administration leadership in economic development



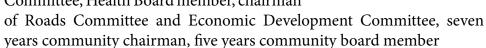
Platform: We are a strong Nation, having passed through wars, separation and despair. We negotiate business on a corporate level acquiring for economic profit-driven aspirations from our resources, our intellect, utilizing tribal sovereignty. We uphold the sacred trust at our ceremonial grounds and churches, our language a testimony to our creator God. I am running on the belief in what is good, honest and right. My heart is for the growth of MCN. MVTO.

Tom O. Pickering McIntosh District

Clan: Sweet Potato Tribal Town: Hichiti

Church: West Eufaula Indian Missionary **Baptist**

Education/Experience: OSUIT - 17 years, National Council, chairman Tribal Affairs Community Committee and Service Committee, Health Board member, chairman



Platform: Councilmen should be a visionary and must listen to the citizens to make decisions. I believe in planning for the future needs of our people and ensure funds will be available for them. We need to protect our sovereignty, people and employees. We must invest in our young and find ways to help our elderly. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-618-2015

Darrell Proctor McIntosh District

Clan: Deer "ECOVLKE"

Church: Weogufkee Missionary Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Associates Degree in computer integrated systems service, OSUIT, National Council representative from 2008-2015; instrumentation technician

in manufacturing and power utilities - 29 years. Deacon, Sunday school director and church treasurer. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your McIntosh District representative. I respectfully ask for your voting support. MVTO.

Wife of 25 years, Robin; daughters, Kelsey and Amberly; son, Darrell II; mother, Minnie (Proctor) Cannon; grandparents, the late Andy and Judy (Lasley) Proctor.

Sharon Wyatt Britt Rose McIntosh District

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Arbeka/Nuyuka Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: Graduated from Graham, Weleetka 1980, graduated from Oklahoma School of Business in Tulsa, 1981, legal secretarial degree, SHIP counselor, CAC counselor for the Affordable Care Act.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation 5-2006 to present contract health coordinator/ patient benefits coordinator.

Platform: I will strive to bring accountability to our citizens and strive to ensure that all employees are supported indulgently. I will work for the citizens that are in and out of our jurisdiction to the fullest. Health/ education/tribal and housing will be a priority. MVTO.



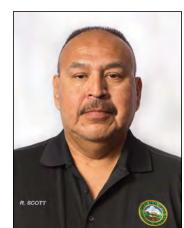
Rufus Scott Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama **Church:** Alabama Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Alabama

Education/Experience: Military Police Academy, Council on Law Enforcement Education Training, Wetumka Board of Education 18 years, board president

Army 16 Years

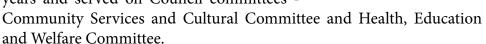


Platform: I have been married to my wife Judith for 27 years. We have a daughter, Kristi and a son Brad, a grandson, Oskewyske and a granddaughter Peyton. I am Lighthorseman and also a member of the Myskoke Nation Honor, serving as treasurer for 17 years. I would like to bring back fairness to all citizens and not a chosen few. I will be committed and listen to you the citizen.

Pearl (Chalakee) Thomas Okmulgee District

Clan: Nokose Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Honey Creek UMC

Education/Experience: BS Education, Northeastern State University- retired from Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years, National Council representative for four years and served on Council committees -



Platform: Moving the Nation forward while staying loyal to the citizens and traditions. I promise to represent the citizens to the very best of my ability so that our Nation will have a bright and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

'Carol' Eugenia Tiger Okfuskee District

Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Fishpond Church: Springfield UMC

Education/Experience: High school - Long Beach California, Anchor Glass Container 34 years, Creek Nation Election Board 16 years



Platform: My job as your Council representative would be to work for you. All community needs are important to me-church, ceremonial and community groups. I would like to see our Nation move forward and set higher standards to serve our people. From our youth to our elders, we can focus on the important issues and support one another. If elected, I would proudly serve you!

Contact information: Cell - 918-716-8267, Hompvs.ci@gmail.com, Facebook: Vote Carol Tiger Okfuskee

Eleanor 'Irene' Van Buskirk Tulsa District

Clan: Wind

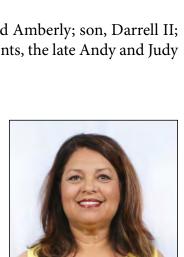
Tribal Town: Kvncvte **Church:** Newtown Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelor Of Administration. Background: outpatient services (alcoholism and drug abuse); financial analyst (small business development), entrepreneurial trainer.



Platform: I live in Glenpool and was born to Esther (Simmers) and Elmer Van Woudenberg. Attend services for world-wide leaders. Children: Chasilee, Josiah and Elijah; six grandchildren: Aubree, Tristan, Jeffery, Kristie, Elizabeth and Zay. I will provide services with the best delivery possible with God's blessings. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-946-6542, eiwhitebird@gmail.com, Facebook-Elect Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk





Sam 'Gene' Whitlow Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground

Church: Thewarle Baptist, member, deacon

Education/Experience: Dustin HS, Haskell Institute, building construction; Oklahoma State Tech, building technology, diploma, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge (1967) MCN Housing Authority director, tribal

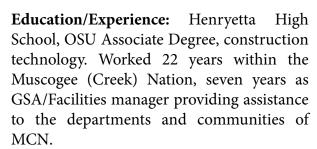


compliance officer. Knowledge of federal programs in finance and grant implementation. Letter carrier USPO; owned and operated construction companies. Fluent Myskoke speaker - Retired

Platform: I have two daughters, three sons and live in Dustin. Tribal programs are for the people. We are entrusted to respectfully administer programs for their betterment and for continual improvement. Please support me for your representative. MVTO.

Dean WilliamsOkmulgee District

Clan: Bird Church: Baptist





Platform: Help build a stronger Nation. My goal is to ensure that all appropriations legislation is for the benefit of the citizens and the Nation. I would like to implement more funding for education, elders and the preservation of our culture. All Mvskoke people deserve a tribal government they can be proud of.

Grover Wind Okmulgee District

Tribal Town: Kvsehtv **Clan:** Nokosvlke

Education/Experience: High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah and ordained minister at New Beginnings Church, Henryetta. Graduate of Okemah High School (1969); college hours from Tulsa Community College and University of Tulsa. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force-Honorable Discharge.



Platform: Planned progress - I am an advocate for tribal enterprise development that will broaden our economic base. Education - I strongly support the development of educational programs, especially funding for scholarships for citizens who are working on degrees or obtaining technical training. Senior citizens - Funding for meals, transportation and activities for seniors in need. Employee Development - Provide opportunities to upgrade skills.

Lena Wind Okfuskee District

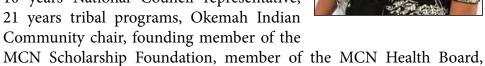
Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Alabama

Church: New Beginnings Henryetta

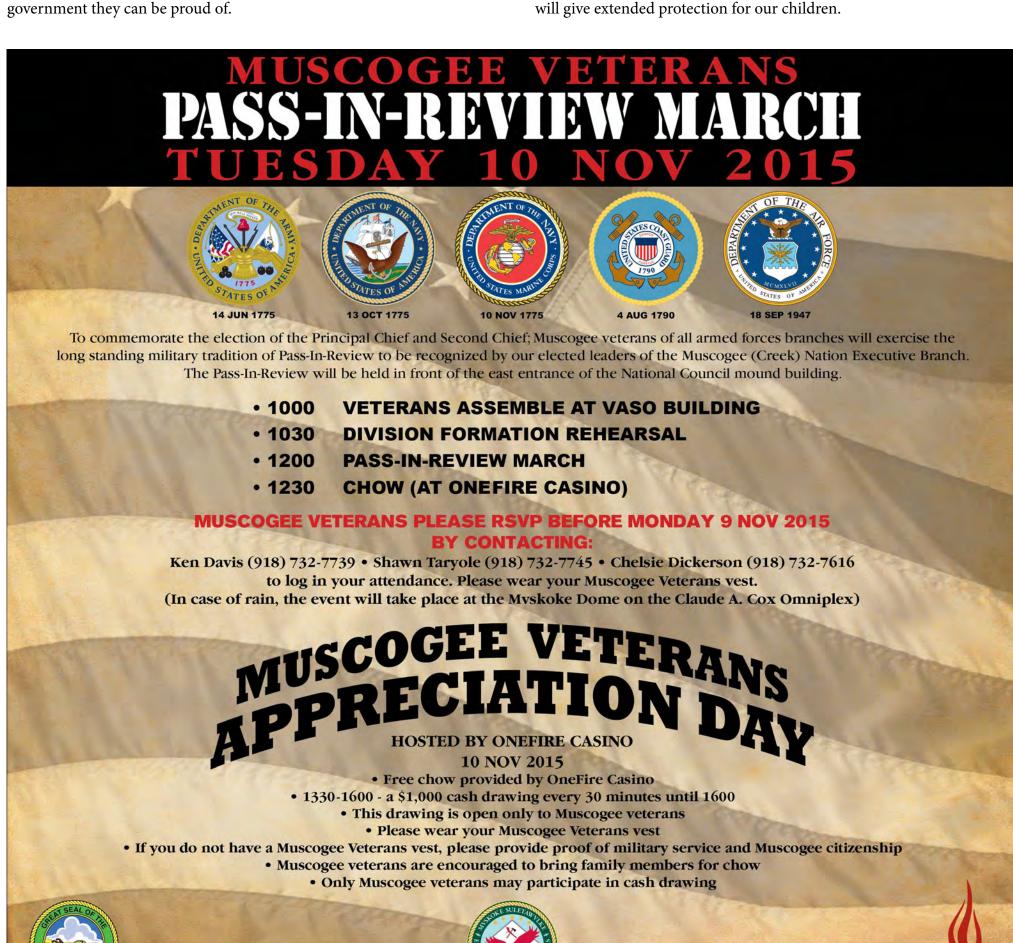
Education/Experience: B.A.ED., NSU, Tahlequah; M.S. ED., OCU, Oklahoma City; 10 years National Council representative, 21 years tribal programs, Okemah Indian Community chair, founding member of the

Member of the OIC Economic, P.S. teacher 12 years.



SPONSORED BY

Platform: Lifelong resident of the Muscogee Nation. There is work needed to address issues with our child welfare. Codes need to be changed that





Grand opening held for Transit SRO location

High demand leads to satellite office

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Transit Authority opened their new satellite office Aug. 10 at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

"We've been trying to expand in that area through the transit system," MCN Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge said. "We're trying to branch out because our ridership numbers keep growing."

Transit previously operated solely out of the MCN capital in Okmulgee. They provide transportation services across the 11-county tribal jurisdiction to citizens, Native Americans and the general public.

The new office is aimed at providing quicker response

"We want to do everything possible to help our citizens," LaSarge said.

Transit - 7



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Transportation Program Manager Charley LaSarge (left) and MCN Tribal Administrator Jerry Wilson (right) cut a ribbon Aug. 10 to open the new MCN Transit Authority satellite office at the MCN Southern Regional Office



Amanda Rutland/MNN

The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief Candidate Forum was held Aug. 15 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla. Mvskoke Media, Media Coordinator Jessica McBride (center) addresses candidates (I to r) Thomas Yahola, David Nichols, Adam Jones, James Floyd and George Tiger before the event as Faculty Director of the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy at the University of Oklahoma, Lindsay Robertson (far right) waits to begin his role as forum moderator.

Myskoke Media hosts MCN Principal Chief Candidate Forum

2016-2020 executive hopefuls address topics submitted by citizens

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief Candidate Forum was held Aug. 15 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

According to a Myskoke Media release, the forum was a service provided to Muscogee (Creek) citizens to learn about the candidates ahead of the election

and offered an opportunity for the candidates to inform citizens of the qualities, experience and ideas they will bring to the position if elected.

The candidates answered the questions starting in alphabetical order and then rotating with the initial responder for the first question answering last on the second with a continuation of this format for the remainder of

Forum - 6

Reintegration holds groundbreaking for new transitional living facility



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Center to house newly released RiP clients

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials along with staff from the MCN Reintegration Pro-

gram held a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 21, for new RiP transitional living facility and administrative building in Henryetta.

The new living center is

Transitional - 2



Amanda Rutland/MNN Children attending the Mvskoke Language Program Preservation Immersion Camp July 27-29 color a clan coloring book containing Mvskoke words

Language program hosts immersion camp

Staff teaches children Mvskoke language

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Little voices shouted animal words 'Katcv, nokose, wotko,' from Camp ~ 2

inside a classroom during the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program Language Immersion Camp July 27-29 at the Myskoke Dome in Okmul-

Muskogee **Regional Office** holds program fair

Department, programs and candidates share information

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Muskogee Regional Office held a program fair Aug. 17 on-site in Muskogee.

Departments and programs were invited to provide a representative to share information about what they do and how they can help the citizens who live in or around Muskogee.

"We wanted to have this because some of the citizens that do not live near Okmulgee do not know what all our programs do," MCN Community and Human Services Office Manager Nancy Deere-Turney said. "This fair is to let them know what our tribe can offer and what assistance they can get if they need help."

Secretary of the MCN Department of Community and Human Services, Cherrah Giles wants MCN entities to take advantage of the MRO to assist citizens.

"With our office here, we can have our departments come here to the citizens to help lessen the traveling hardships that some of our people do have when they have to make long trips," Giles said.

The event also featured bounce houses for the children to play in.

"We want the children to have fun while their parents are looking around at our programs," Deere-Turney said.

The event was also used to rally voters for the upcoming election.

"It is election time," Giles said. "We need our citizens to use their voice and vote."

Earlier that day, CHS partnered with the Mvskoke Youth Services Program to host a youth and elder luncheon.

Members of the MNYS Myskoke Nation Youth Council served the meal and also hosted bingo.

"We want our generations to collaborate between our elders and youth," MNYS Program Assistant/Intern Jasmyne Jack said. "We feel that this is one way of doing it and it is successful."

For more information about the MRO, call Deere-Turney at: 918-549-2586. The office is located at 111 S. Virginia in Muskogee.

TRANSITIONAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aimed at helping to provide encouraging and positive reentry conditions for Muscogee (Creek) citizens transitioning back into the community from incarceration.

"In our program we believe that everybody is important," RiP Manager Tony Fish said. "Even an ex-prisoner."

The facility will offer accommodations for up to 36 clients for a time period of six months to a year.

"We will be able to house 24 men and 12 women for six months to a year, depending on the need of the individual," Fish said. "We believe that each individual is different so we will tailor our plans around the individual."

Fish expects the new administrative offices to further enhance the program's outreach.

"There will be office space for my staff to meet the needs of the people that we serve," he said.

The planned facility will also house a vocational technology

learning center to train citizens in skills such as driving commercial vehicles and welding.

RIP hopes the center will eliminate their need to fund clients being housed in locations that the program does not own.

"That is the bonus for us to have the facility here," Fish said. "We will not have to drive our clients to another area to house them."

Principal MCN Chief George Tiger was on-hand for the ceremony.

"I always said the Reintegration Program follows the tradition and culture of our people," Tiger said. "In the case of our Reintegration Program, they do much more than that; they believe offering a hand but also our hearts."

The project was designed by Architect 1 and is set for completion by RedStone Construction in July 2016.

For more information about the program, call: 918-652-

The facility will offer accommodations for up to 36 clients for a time period of six months to a year and is set for completion in July 2016.

CAMP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gee.

Children from first to sixth grade learned words for things like colors, numbers, Mvskoke clans and basic greetings.

"The camp has gone really well. The kids really enjoy it," MLPP Manager Chumona Deere said.

The campers also learned a few Mvskoke language hymns and were treated to story time and a puppet show.

"We just start out real small," Deere said. "We are just trying to encourage the babies and the parents to hold on to the language, hold on to the language however you can, even if it is just two or three words."

At the end of the three-day camp, the children were presented with certificates, Tshirts and a backpack with school supplies.

Deere said they have received a lot of feedback from parents.

"It just about makes me cry when I hear young parents talking Creek to their baby,"

Deere said.

Deere mentioned a few program updates. She said they are currently recording the Mvskoke language Bible and working to preserve hymns.

"We are wanting to record so people can listen to it in their cars," Deere said.

They are also creating a Mvskoke language curriculum to be taught in public schools. The teachers would need to be certified through the MLPP as knowledgeable and then by the

Under Oklahoma House Bill 2548, Native American languages can be taken for an academic credit.

"They don't have to have a teaching degree in order to be certified. The state has it fixed to where they would have a teacher across the hall or somewhere that would kind of oversee the class," Deere said.

The curriculum must meet state academic foreign language standards.

Deere hopes to be finished in

Lighthorse provides receptacle for medicine disposal



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department along with Covanta Energy Corporation Director Matthew Newnam (left of bin), stand beside a new receptacle Aug. 19 at LTPD headquarters that will be used to dispose of pharmaceuticals.

Proper handling promoted for safety, environment

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department in collaboration with the MCN **Environmental Services Depart**ment obtained receptacles Aug. 19 for the disposal of pharmaceuticals.

Two receptacles, or as LTPD calls them, 'the pill eaters' will be used. One will be stored in the lobby of LTPD headquarters while placement of the other is still being determined.

"This receptacle will provide a

safe, secure and anonymous disposal of pharmaceuticals," LTPD Meth Initiative Officer Daniel Wind said. "This is a safer alternative to throwing them away or flushing them down the toilet."

A 2002 U.S. Geological Survey found pharmaceutical products in ground water samples.

"We have learned that a lot of people will dispose their old pharmaceuticals by flushing them down the toilet," MCN Environmental Specialist James Williams said. "Trying to dispose of the old medicine does not get rid of them and studies have shown it to be in the ground water."

A proper receptacle can help prevent accidental ingestion of

medication, improper medication usage and the prevention of pharmaceutical products contaminating water sources.

"With these receptacles, we can dispose the prescription medicine the right way without it being hazardous to anyone and also safe for the environment," Wind said.

When it is time for the receptacles to be dumped, they are taken to an incinerator at a Covanta Energy Corporation facility for proper disposal.

LTPD and Environmental Services staff went through a training to learn how to handle the bins.

Covanta Director Matthew Newman spoke about the recep-

"We always hear about pills not being disposed of the right way," Newman said. "With the proper training of how to handle the receptacles, this will help get the pills properly taken care of, which in turn will help the environment."

The LTPD receptacle is open to the public and those who dispose of medication will remain anonymous.

LTPD offices are located at 2200 Alligator Trail in Okmul-

To reach LTPD call: 918-732-7800.

In case of an emergency, call LTPD at: 877-547-3390.

Muscogee (Creek) association holds forum in Tennessee

Candidates make trip to visit citizens out east

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Some Muscogee (Creek) citizens that do not live within the tribal jurisdiction still feel that they can do something in their respective citizens living

near them. The Tennessee Creek Association happens to be one of those organizations.

TCA became chartered with the state back in 2007 when a couple of Muscogee (Creek) citizens living in Tennessee got together to advocate for Native American issues that were going on in the state.

"It helped out that we were all Muscogee (Creek)," TCA member Melba Checote Eads said. "Once we started meeting, we started going forward with what we are wanting to do."

Checote Eads and the other members want the association to be recognized in the state.

"We are sticking close to our tribe even though we live in another state," Checote Eads said. "We need the state of Tennessee to realize what our tribe has done here."

The TCA held a forum Aug. 8 communities to benefit other in Murfreesboro, Tenn., to allow because we all have jobs and

gives us a voice."

— Tennessee Creek Association member

Melba Checote Eads

all the candidates who are run-

ning for office in the upcoming

Muscogee (Creek) Nation elec-

"We had some familiar faces

to our association show up along

with new faces," Checote Eads

about the phone calls for voter

She also expressed excitement

tions to come out and speak.

"The citizens understand that if they want to be heard, they have to vote," Checote Eads said. "More voters only helps our tribe."

She said that TCA has over 60 members but she found out there are over 200 Muscogee (Creek) citizens living in Ten-

"It has been a struggle for us

other things that We want all of our citizens living here to join. More we are doing but we members only makes our association stronger and are still wanting our organization to be successful," Checote Eads said. "We are going to do what all we can do to keep

this going."

She invites all citizens living in Tennessee to come out and attend a TCA meeting.

"We want all of our citizens living here to join," Checote Eads said. "More members only makes our association stronger and gives us a voice."

For more information call: 615-210-7276.

MUSCOGEE NATIONS

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER DARREN DELAUNE

ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov



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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN **JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**





Muscogee (Creek) citizens Kaylee Hummingbird (right) and Maggie Hummingbird (left) have a multi-generational love of softball in their family.

Softball passed down among Hummingbird family

Family shares love of sport down through generations

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Many Native American families share softball as a favorite pastime.

For Muscogee (Creek) citizens Kaylee and Maggie Hummingbird, this is generational.

Their grandfather, Rev. Grover Wind grew up playing softball and passed that down to his children. One of his daughters, Kimmee Hummingbird passed down what she knew to her daughters, 14-year-old Kaylee and 11-year-old Maggie.

"They grew up watching their father and I play," Kimmee said. "Their interest for the sport began at a very young age."

Both began playing at the age of four.

"We have always been around softball," Maggie said. "My mom played when she was pregnant with me."

Their softball skills have taken them to different parts of the U.S. to compete in national com-

"We got to go to a lot of different places to play," Kaylee said.

"We want to play as much as we can and the places we get to go are a lot of fun."

One of the places Kaylee got to play was Orlando, Fla., where her team competed in the 'Road to the World Series,' which is similar to the Little League World Series.

Her team, the Oklahoma Diamondgirls ended up winning the tournament, which was shown on ESPN.

"That was fun," Kaylee said. "I had a great time playing there."

The sisters play for different age divisions of the Diamondgirls and both pitch for their respective teams.

Kaylee plays shortstop when not on the mound and Maggie plays first base.

Their mother said the whole family is constantly on the go. She enjoys every minute of watching her girls play the sport they love.

"If they aren't playing then they are practicing," Kimmie said. "Even when they do not have practice, they are doing something to work on their fundamentals, even if it is just around the house."

Kimmee said that softball is

year-round for the girls, which is very challenging because they also play basketball.

They said with each day, their love for softball grows.

"I don't get tired of playing softball," Maggie said. "I want to play as much as I can."

Kaylee said she does get tired sometimes but this feeling changes after showing up.

"It's weird when I show up to where we are practicing, I do not feel tired no more and I am ready to play," Kaylee said.

Kimmie said both daughters work on fundamentals consistently.

"We could be at the gas station getting gas for the vehicle and the girls will get their bats and get out of the car and start practicing their swinging," Kimmee said.

Their mom hopes that this sport will continue to be a generational.

"I hope they keep playing when they are older and pass it down to the generation after them," Kimmee said.

Kaylee plans to play at Glenpool Public Schools this year and Maggie plans to play at Lone Star Public Schools.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' will provide coverage of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Fiscal Year 2016 budget negotiations between the MCN National Council and the MCN Executive Branch in the Sept. 15 edition.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen begins new coaching challenge

Wolfe seeks to pass on knowledge to younger generation

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

SASAKWA, Okla. — There is a popular saying that, 'too much of a good thing can be

This quote does not pertain to Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rikki Wolfe and her love of basketball.

If she is not in a jersey, she still wants to figure out some way to be as close to the court as possible.

She managed to accomplish this after her career playing college basketball.

"I wanted to coach because I wanted to pass down what I learned to kids younger than me," Wolfe said.

After two stints as an assistant coach at Depew Public Schools and Carl Albert State College in Depew and Poteau respectively, Wolfe has taken a lead role as head coach for the Sasakwa High School girl's basketball team in Sasakwa.

Wolfe loved her time at CASC but felt it was time to move on to the next challenge.

"The college level of coaching was great and I learned a lot," Wolfe said. "However, I felt it was time for me to go back to the high school level and coach there."

Wolfe made the decision to pursue a head coaching position when she came across an opening with Sasakwa.

She made a trip to the Class B school, looked over the area and immediately knew that it was the place where she wanted to start as a head coach.

"I knew this would be a

challenge to be a head coach," Wolfe said. "It was definitely nerve-wracking in all decisions that needed to be made."

In her inaugural season as head coach, her team competed well into the playoffs before bowing out in the area tournament quarterfinals.

"Overall it was a very good year," Wolfe said. "I could not have asked for a better year for my first year being a head coach."

Wolfe's team enjoyed their first year with her.

"She is not one of those coaches who jumps all over the players," senior player Courtney Taylor said. "She does get frustrated but she always has something positive to say and pushes us to do the best that she knows we can do."

Wolfe coaches her team as athletes and every day people.

"I want my players to know that they are overall great people and they need to have the confidence to do something and do it right, not only on the court but away from the court," Wolfe said. "I want them to be successful in life."

Wolfe said her ultimate goal is not chasing state champion-

"My goal first and foremost is to have an impact for Jesus Christ," Wolfe said. "I want to keep him as the basis and foundation in everything I do. I have talked about my faith to my players and what Christ has done for my life and I want to be able to share it with them."

Wolfe is the daughter of Rick and Minnie Wolfe and she is a member of the Fuswv (Bird) Clan and Tukvpvcce Tribal Town.

The Beach Boys perform at River Spirit Casino



For only the third time in 50 years, Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame inductees, The Beach Boys performed in Oklahoma July 16-17 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Concert sells out both nights for HoF band

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — For only the third time in 50 years, Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame inductees, The Beach Boys performed in Oklahoma July 16-17 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation River Spirit Casino Event Center in Tulsa.

"We performed at a civic center somewhere here in Oklahoma 50 years ago this month," lead singer Mike Love said. "We have people who were in the audience at that concert in 1965. I really love our fans here."

The band is in the middle of their 167th concert tour and celebrating their 50th anniversary.

"What else can I do, all my kids are grown up," singer and keyboardist Bruce Johnston said. "This keeps us going and keeps us close to our fans."

The band performed two

nights at RSC and both were sold out. Songs such as 'Good Vibrations, 'God Only Knows' and 'Kokomo' filled the seats.

The older generation was taken back to their younger years while the new generation was treated to music that will forever be etched in history.

Johnston loves the Event Center's stage since it puts them closer to the audience, giving a more personal feel to the performance.

"The stage is great for our band," Johnston said. "There is nothing on it except us. I love it."

TBB showed up at RSC ready to go and gave a great performance to their fans who the band said have remained 'true' to them through all these years.

"Although we have not been here a lot," Love said, "our fans welcome us and treat us like we have never left. That shows what impact our band has made and our fans have been nothing but loyal to us."

TBB gave a gift to the audience through the last song during Thursday's concert, a performance of Merle Haggard's, 'Okie from Muskogee.'

"We have always loved this song," Johnston said. "What a better treat than to sing it to everyone here tonight."

Cindy Taylor, who was there for the Thursday night concert, said the performance was everything she thought it would be.

"I grew up on their music and they sound the same as when I heard them on the radio," Taylor

Love wanted to let the fans know that the band feels the same sense of nostalgia as the audience when they play.

"They show old videos of us during our concerts now," Love said. "Seeing those videos, looking at those clothes, it brings back great memories of a great

Love is pleased with the band's legacy.

"It is such a great feeling to see our fans' reaction to our music," Love said. "Because of them is the reason why our music is a part of history."

Johnston shared those same sentiments.

"I love the atmosphere that our music gives to the fans," Johnston said. "It is great to see what it has done for everyone."

Love wanted to share one more thing with everyone who was at the concert.

"We are honored that you came out to see us and shared some great memories," Love said. "Thank you."

Citizen comes 'full circle' in basketball, life



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Douglas experiences sport from all angles

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bruce Douglas feels he has come full circle when it comes to basketball and life.

This past season Douglas accomplished what few people have by adding another piece to his career.

He has worn a basketball jersey during the state high school tournament (player), worn a suit (coached), watched from the stands as a proud parent and now, refereed a state tournament game.

"My highlights," Douglas said. "Only a few can experience that and I am happy to say that I am one of them."

Douglas spoke about the lic Schools.

passion he has for the sport.

Being able to participate in so many aspects has helped him appreciate it more.

"Now I can say I have been on both sides of the basketball," Douglas said.

Douglas has been a referee for over 20 years, traveling all over the state for basketball games from the 'B' classes all the way to '6A.'

Douglas felt he had built up his resume enough to referee at the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association State High School Basketball Championship held March 5-6 and 12-14.

In the past seasons, he never received the email saying he could do this and it started to bother Douglas.

"I was beginning to get discouraged," he said. "I felt I have done everything in my power to deserve the opportunity to be a referee in the state tournament."

He was considering stopping as a referee until he finally received the long awaited email.

"When I got the email I finally told myself, 'I made it,' " Douglas said.

Douglas is a former employee of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Department and is currently superintendant for Midway Pub-

Oklahoma ranked 17th nationally for suicide deaths



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that in 2013, 521 Native Americans took their own lives. Of those individuals, 64 lived in Oklahoma

Clinician says asking direct questions is key to prevention

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — We have all made the statement, 'just shoot me,' or 'I wish I was dead.' But each time we say it, are we serious about the consequences of such a remark?

"Even if it just came out across your lips just for a second doesn't mean that you truly had a plan and were desperately thinking about it, but it briefly crossed your mind," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Clinician, Robin Hudson LeBlanc said.

Robin, a Cherokee Nation citizen, has dedicated her career to fighting for mental health issues and suicide prevention after she experienced the effects of suicide first hand.

Her son, Tyler made his first suicide attempt in 2005.

For the next three years, Robin not only conducted research on mental illness and suicide prevention, but went back to school to help fight for Tyler and others.

"Depression and mental illness... it's just like a cancer. It can't be detected on X-ray," Robin said. "You don't have a bandage. It's in your head and it's in your heart. You're broken and there's days you can't get out of bed and no one understands that.

"And no one gives you the moment to recapture your life and to be able to get up and be able to deal with that and be able to go on. They just want you to hurry up and snap out of it. Tomorrow will be better. And it just doesn't work that way."

What Robin found in her experience, was that those who need help are either sent to a mental health center or a co-occuring facility but not a place that concentrates on the fact that they do not want to live.

Robin said that some researchers and experts are fearful of the contagion effect, where attempters are not helped by talking to others who are also depressed, but would be influenced to take their own lives.

"We have learned that talking about suicide doesn't cause suicide. Talking about suicide gives somebody an outlet to talk about suicide," Robin said.

Robin lost her son in March 2008.

Since then, she has been advocating for a facility to assist attempters with their needs and provide care specific

to their symptoms.

She also serves as the Oklahoma state chairperson for the Suicide Prevention Council.

Robin is the first suicide survivor to chair committee.

A suicide survivor is an individual who has lost a loved one to suicide.

Suicidal symptoms include: erratic behavior, depression, withdrawal, changes in sleep cycle, telling people goodbye, giving away prized possessions and moodiness.

Robin recommended being up front if you are worried about someone.

"You should always talk to someone who you think is having trouble," Robin said. "If you do ask someone, you should ask them directly."

She recommended asking, 'Are you thinking about taking your life?' or 'Are you thinking about killing yourself?' instead of phrasing the question negatively.

"The first time you ever say it, the first time those words come out especially when it's a loved one, especially when it's your own child, it's the hardest thing that you'll ever do," Robin said. "But once you do it, you'll be amazed. Usually the one who's on the other side if they are suicidal, they'll be very truthful."

She also said that the right questions have to be asked.

"We just get so busy with our lives, we just want to hear fine and OK," Robin said.

If you know someone is thinking of taking their life, do not leave them by themselves. Robin recommended calling someone who is qualified to talk to them.

By dialing 211, you will be connected with someone who can transfer you to an appropriate response team. When dialing 911 or the MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department, ask for a crisis intervention trained (CIT) officer.

You can also drive them to a hospital. Robin suggested keeping them in the back seat with the child locks on.

"You just need to make sure you keep them safe and yourself safe," Robin said.

MCNDH is hosting a World Suicide Prevention Day event at 3:30 p.m., Sept. 10 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee. The event will include a hope walk.

If you, or someone you know has suicidal thoughts, call the National Suicide Hotline at: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

You can also text 'Hi,' to the Crisis Text Line at: 741741 and speak to a trained listener that can help you.





The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WETUMKA HEAD START

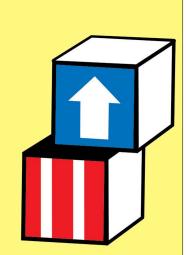
is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

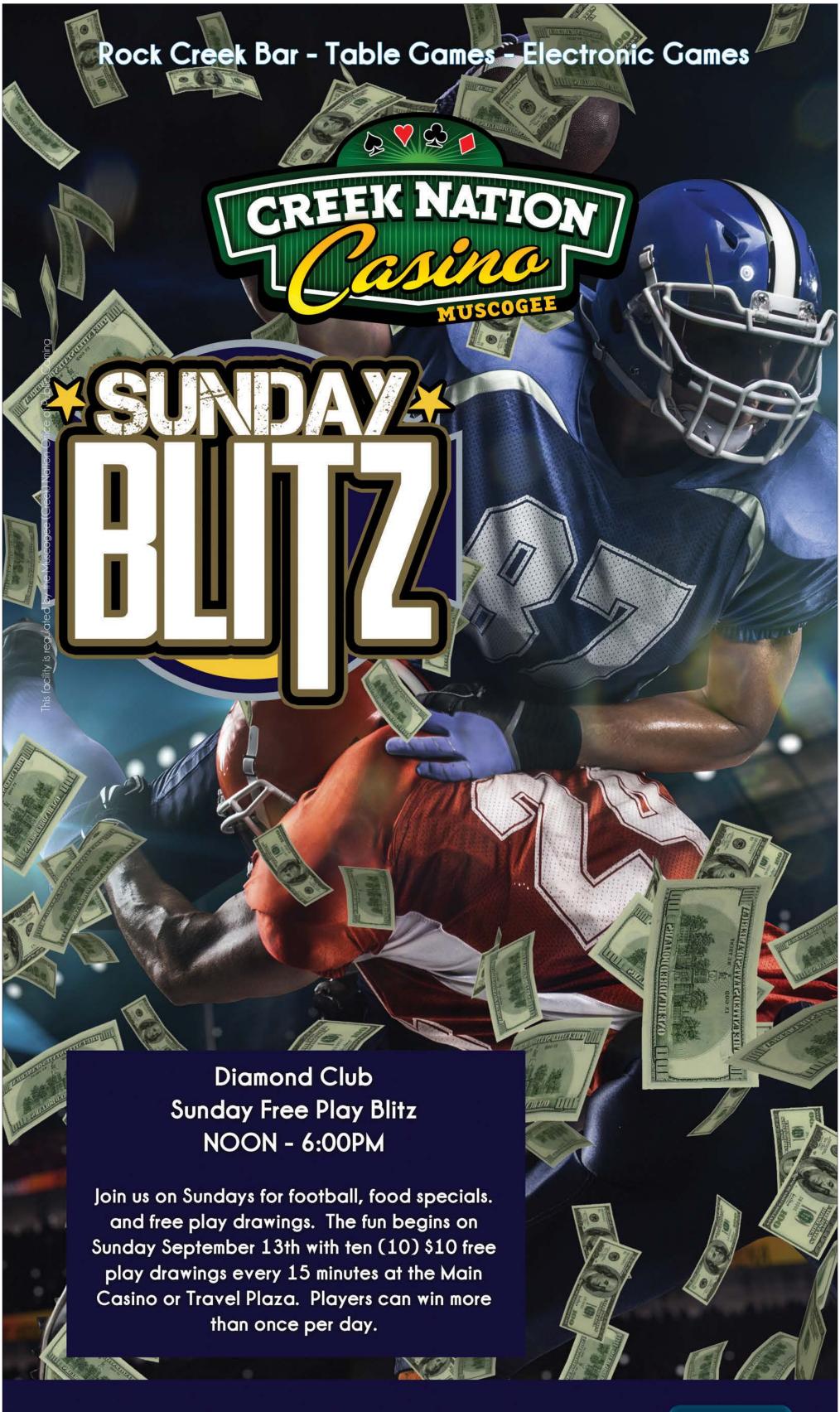
Requirements for the program will include:

- Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st
- Income Verification (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)
- Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Child's medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.





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The first question:

'Why do you want to be principal chief and what are your goals for the position? Do you plan to hold positions outside of the tribe, or will you focus your attention solely to being principal chief?'

Photos by: Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

Translations provided by: The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program

James Floyd



"

Good morning everyone. I want to thank Mvskoke Media for hosting this event. I want to serve as principal chief because I feel that I have the qualifications and experience that the tribe needs at this time.

I have thought about this for quite some time and in the last several months, am in a position at this time where I can devote my full time and attention to the tribe and the business of administrating the tribe.

I recently retired from my position so my full time attention will be in administering the affairs of the tribe as the principal chief. I have no outside business interests or any other things that can advert my attention.

My two children are grown so I intend to be a full time principal chief and be working for you every day.

I also want to ensure that regardless of the issues we have at hand at the time, that I'll be objective in looking and listening to the points that are raised and the matters as we consider the decisions to move our tribe forward. I believe that my experience of being from the outside is a plus, to bring a fresh perspective and I think that will be very helpful.

My career began with Muscogee (Creek) Nation and I'm glad to be back here again and I'm looking forward to serving in the capacity of the principal chief and look forward to doing my very best every day. Thank you."

David Nichols



"

My goal for principal chief is to make this tribe move forward. We need to bring ourselves into the modern times of the world we live in today. We will still focus on culture and traditional things also but we have a lot of growing to do.

In the last four years, we've set a lot of foundations but our foundations haven't grown. And that's my job, to help this Nation move, grow and prosper for the citizens of the Nation. Once we begin our move and growing, we will have the resources and financial resources to improve our programs, focusing mainly on healthcare in the beginning.

Healthcare is very vital to every citizen sitting in this audience today. We will all use healthcare some day and it needs to be the best it can be. My full time will be working for the Nation.

I do have a job in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I will be resigning that job, focusing 100 percent of my time working for the Nation and I will proudly serve you with my heart. I want to serve the people, to grow, to prosper, to just see us be number one again.

We don't have to be number one, but we want to be on top, along with other tribes. We've kind of fell to the wayside and we're going to have to turn that around in many ways. With a lot of good help, with a lot of good people and a lot of good mileage and citizens coming on board.

We have a lot of good employees now and we want to work with them. Have training things to help better our tribe. Thank you."

The candidates addressed other questions relating to:

The fiscal transparency of OneFire Holding Company LLC and Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, the plans for properties recently purchased by the Nation, freedom of the press, the abolishment of special appropriations, blood quantum and educational background requirements for political office, the Hickory Ceremonial Ground issue in Wetumpka, Ala., and the parental leave policy for MCN employees.

View a video of the full forum with their answers to these questions here (the forum begins at 32:30):

https://youtu.be/EU2oBeuIIhI

Adam Jones



"

I believe I wanted to be principal chief for the reasons of this, I feel like our Nation is too comfortable. We bring hard work, that is what we do. Our personal business, we work hard every day.

That work ethic was instilled to me by my family and I bring that to this Nation. That business has to be set aside because the number one concern for me, our Nation is too comfortable now and we need to push forward and make this more progressive. Thank you."

George Tiger



"

Hesci! Momen hiyowe etvlwv Mekko ohfvtcv vtotketv tektvnke pum palatcat mvto makit os. (Hello! And now I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to carry out the duties of the Nation's chief's work.)

I want to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of this forum to allow us to stand before you and have this opportunity to talk about the Office of the Principal Chief.

As the current principal chief, I've never waivered from having this as a full time position and I believe it is reflective on the success that we've had over the last three-and-a-half years. In terms of health, education, all the various things that you will hear about this morning, we've came in and improved all facets of those particular programs.

But we have yet to scratch the surface and I believe that it is important that we continue working together, in setting aside our indifferences and what have you, to be able to continue working for the people that are our stakeholders and that's our citizens. *Mvto Makis*. (I say thank you.)"

Thomas Yahola



"

Hesci! Nettv heret onko? (Hello! Isn't today a good day?)

Good morning, I'm pleased to be here with the citizens to tell you why I want to run for the Office of the Principal Chief. The Office of the Principal Chief should be of integrity, honesty and transparency and that's what I stand for.

I have the experience in the leadership as being speaker for four terms, so I have proved leadership. Honesty, integrity and transparency has been my life. I've been working all my life to have those characteristics.

I had breakfast with a friend of mine this morning, we discussed the Office of the Principal Chief and honesty and he said, 'I have known you since childhood and I do not question your honesty.'

Also, being the principal chief, you select individuals that can run your programs that have integrity, that have compassion, that want to do for the people and that's what I want.

Also something I want to implement, I don't like calling someone and there's an answering machine. I want someone to answer that phone, gives a response. Also, I want to have a staff and individuals who will cross train, so if someone is absent, then they can pick that up and pass the information along to you.

And I am pleased to be before you to ask for your vote. I will continue to be accountable for all my actions. I will be accountable to myself. I will be accountable to you. I will represent myself with integrity and I will represent this Nation with integrity also. Myto."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

HEALTHY FOODS **BUILD HAPPY FAMILIES**

Locations

Glenpool Eufaula Okemah

Okmulgee **Broken Arrow** Coweta

Sapulpa Seminole Shawnee

Stroud Tulsa Wetumka

For an appointment please call 918-549-2790 or 1-800-648-2302 You do not have to be Native American to apply for our program.

Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.









Myskoke Language Preservation Program

Interrogative words — NAK VPOHETV

ESTOFVN - When?

NAKEN? - What?

E

O

ESTIMVT? - Who?

ESTVMEN? - Where?

NVCOMEN? - How Many?

NVCOMA - How Much? NAKSTOMEN? - Why? ESTOMA? - Which? **ESTOMET? - How?**

N	E	Т	V	M	I	T	S	Е	N
V	Т	V	I	T	S	E	Е	T	Е
C	E	N	N	C	О	M	A	N	Е
O	N	S	N	V	F	O	T	S	E
M	N	A	T	M	V	T	S	A	C
Е	N	V	K	О	S	S	Е	M	A
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N	N	V	N	E	M	V	T	S	Е

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FORUM CANDIDATE SET FOR SEPT. 3

WETUMKA, Okla. — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation candidate forum is set for 6:30 p.m., Sept. 3 at the Wetumka Indian Community, 123 Highway 9 in Wetumka.

For more information, contact Lenora Crump at: 918-752-9712.

FAMILY REUNION SET FOR SEPT. 7

HENRYETTA, Okla. — The Marshall family reunion is set for Sept. 7 from 12-3 p.m. at Nichols Park in Henryetta. Bring a door prize and picnic items. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served.

For more information, call Judy Montiel at: 918-752-5602.

FORUM CANDIDATE SET FOR SEPT. 12

EUFAULA, Okla. — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation candidate forum is set for 10 a.m., Sept. 12 at the Eufaula Indian Community, 800 Birkes Road in Eufaula.

For more information contact the community office at: 918-689-5066.

INDIAN TACO SALE SET FOR SEPT. 12

TULSA, Okla. — Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church has set an Indian Taco Sale for Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 8815 E. 101st St., Tulsa, OK. Tacos are \$7.

TCIC OFFICER ELECTION SET FOR SEPT. 17

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election Sept. 17 from 6-8 p.m. for the positions of: vice-chairman, secretary/ treasurer and sergeant-at-arms.

If the constitution is approved, the secretary/treasurer position will be combined.

For more information call Roman Powell at: 918-298-2464.



TRANSIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MCN Tribal Administrator Jerry Wilson spoke on behalf of MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, sharing a similar sentiment.

"The transit is one of the great things that our tribe is doing," Wilson said. "We are improving the quality of services as well as quality of life with how we are growing."

Wilson explained that this improvement might include getting citizens to their healthcare appointments and places of employment.

"This will be a big barrier that we will make a dent in with our transit department," Wilson said. "It is going to help all citizens get to where they need to go and not have to worry about transportation issues."

Wilson both spoke highly about the drivers being fluent in the Myskoke language, stating that it demonstrates cultural sensitivity.

"The other way is showing that we are doing everything we can to preserve our language," Wilson said.

T

REVIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 27-29

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Springtown United Methodist Church has set a revival for Sept. 27-29 starting at 7 p.m. nightly. Rev. Jimmy Anderson will speak the first night followed by Rev. Jamie Moss the second and Bill Stone on the last.

For more information call Paul Tecumseh at: 918-270-0231.

Parks Brothers Ace Hardware under citizen ownership

Citizen/Media Release

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Parks Brothers Ace Hardware is under new ownership by longtime employee Travis Scott and his wife ShaRee. Scott has nearly 21 years of experience in serving people and ShaRee has been an employee of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for almost nine years.

Both are Muscogee (Creek) citizens and bring years of experience in serving the public and look forward to continuing business with the citizens and businesses of Okemah and local areas.

Although ownership has changed, the business will continue to operate under the name, Parks Brothers Ace Hardware and the hours will stay the same. A small engine mechanic will be on-site full

Should you have any questions please feel free to call the store at: 918-623-0772.

APOLOGY

To whom this may concern,

I want to say that I am sorry for what I have done. I have never done anything like this before. I was in need and I was not thinking about any consequences. This will never happen again. I do want to apologize to the community and the tribe and workers. I never meant anyone any harm; but in the end, I hurt everyone.

— Journey Lee Davis

MCN will maintain a contract with KI BOIS Area Transit System to further assist with public transportation within the boundaries.

"It is such a good collaboration with KATS that we feel that we need to keep that going," LaSarge

LaSarge mentioned that a lot of citizens have called to see when SRO Transit services will be available. One citizen was ready to take advantage of them by getting a ride to Holdenville.

"This is a blessing having our Transit department here in Wetumka," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sandra Deere said. "It is really tough to get to other places if you do not have a vehicle. With our transit, it will be a big help, especially for our elderly."

The cost for a one-way trip within the Wetumka city limits is 50 cents.

Transit charges \$7 per trip for each county line crossed.

Office hours for the new location are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

To make a reservation call: the Okmulgee Office at 918-732-7909 or the SRO Office at: 405-452-1182.

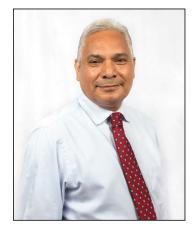
#MCNVOTE2015 — Primary: Sept. 19 / General Nov. 2

MCN principal chief candidates

James Floyd Principal Chief

Clan: Wind Tribal Town: Koweta

Ceremonial Ground: Tvlahasse/Wvkokaye **Education/Experience:** Master's degree, post-masters certifications, managed \$2 billion budget, 9500 employees — Integrity -Top Secret Security Clearance —Teamwork established IHS/VA sharing agreements —



Innovation - Created VA/ tribal reimbursement and telehealth programs

Platform: While establishing successful programs for tribes nationally, my heart remained here, hoping to return to serve our tribe. I have acquired unique skills to better utilize current investments and improve efficiency of service delivery, with full financial and personnel accountability, through 35 years senior executive expertise with Veterans Health, IHS and MCN. Not accepting donations - just your vote. MVTO.

Contact information: 918-671-7008, Floyd2015.com

Adam Jones III **Principal Chief**

Clan: Bear Tribal Town: Koweta

Church: Little Coweta Indian Baptist

Education/Experience: Associate degree in business, owner Jones Construction and current McIntosh District Council representative. Eight years National Council



Platform: I am 44, married 14 years to my wife, Amanda. We have five children and raise them in Stidham. This has given me insight to make needed changes. Areas include healthcare, economic development and education. I seek to provide our children with a secure future and become self-reliant. I will work hard for you, because all our children depend on it. You can't have change by adding more of the same. MVTO!

David Nichols Principal Chief

Clan: Wotko (Racoon) Tribal Town: Tukupvtce

Church: Salt Creek United Indian Methodist Education/Experience: High school/20 years National Council representative

Platform: My platform is clear. I will represent our Nation in a manner that brings pride

upon us all. I will focus resources on the health, education, housing and the overall welfare of each citizen. I will bring financial accountability to the business practices of our Nation and ensure the business development will engage in benefits of our Nation's citizens. To each action I take as principal chief, I will ask myself 'would the elders and the veterans be proud of this action?' MVTO.



MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar, length and Associated Press style. The following release ran on either pages one or two of the June 15, July 1 and July 15 editions of the 'Muscogee Nation News' as well as other media outlets to inform all candidates of the rules before the filing period. These rules were strictly adhered to with no exceptions: 'MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their 100 total word limit bios. No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material. Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.'

Those with questions or concerns may contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or scosper@mcn-nsn.gov or Mvskoke Media Director Christina Good Voice at: 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.

George Tiger Principal Chief

Clan: HOTVLE (Wind)

Tribal Town: O'CE VPOFV (Hickory

Ground)

Church: Yardeka Indian Baptist

Ceremonial Ground: (Hickory Ground)

Education/Experience: Morris HS, Haskell

Indian Junior College, NSU, Honorary

Doctorate - Bacone, Multi-term National Council member, current principal chief, first language and fluent Mvskoke speaker

VPOFV

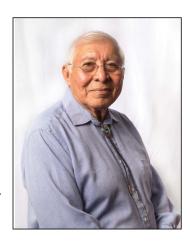
O'CE

Platform: Reflects the traditions, culture and language needs of our most valuable and precious resource – our tribal citizens. Increase the wealth of our Nation by expanding opportunities for our citizens, keeping healthcare, education and housing as top priorities and promoting positive economic progress. MVSKOKE ETVLWV'VLKE HESAKETV-MESE OHMERRVS! (May God continue to bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!)

Thomas Yahola Principal Chief

Platform: The responsibility of a principal chief is to exhibit integrity, transparency and accountability in caring for his people.

Today that is maintaining and improving health, education, and a higher standard of living for his people. Being a chief, he must set the example for others to follow. With your vote, this is my pledge to you.



The above listed characteristics have been my lifetime foundation. They were formed by my traditional upbringing, discipline gained in military service and knowledge gained through education and work experiences. I sincerely request your vote for principal chief, MVTO.

MCN National Council Seat A candidates

Shirlene M. Ade Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Katcvlke

Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Many Springs Baptist

Education/Experience: Employed 25 years federal government. I worked for IHS, Tinker AFB, Department of the Army (McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant) retired in 2005, two years early to work and serve Creek citizens more effectively. Mother: Elizabeth Narcomey, Holdenville. Father: Frank Lewis, Eufaula.

Platform: We have a challenge to face our future addressing the needs of our Creek Citizens in a modern setting, through innovative and technological means, but it must remain essentially Muskoke Etvlwv. To accomplish this, our government must remain IN an OF our culture and IN and OF our people.

Samuel Scott Alexander Tulsa District

Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Church: Member of Montesoma Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Lives in Broken Arrow. A graduate of Northeastern State College, he manages his CPA practice located in Wagoner. First confirmed tax commissioner (tribal defendant) during tobacco litigation

with Oklahoma, Gaming Operations Authority Board chair when bingo halls converted into casinos, National Council representative for eight years, speaker in 2012-2013, three daughters, two granddaughters, senior athlete, running and basketball.

Platform: His candidacy for National Council representative offers unmatched financial experience, vast tribal background and candor to the concerned voter.

Wilson Bear McIntosh District

Clan: Bear
Tribal Town: Eufaula-Canadian
Church: Protestant
Ceremonial Ground: Eufaulagee
Education/Experience: B.S. Psychology/
Sociology

Platform: Health, education, welfare, economic development for smaller

communities that will create jobs, Social Service and Elderly Housing will play a big part as your representative.



Ceremonial Ground: New Tulsa **Clan:** Aktykculke

Church: New Beginnings Baptist

Education/Experience: Master of Science, industrial management, Bachelor of Science, environmental management, ordained minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee

minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I currently serve as manager of the Environmental Services Department for the tribe and I am honored

to work alongside dedicated professionals who continually protect the tribe's resources.

Platform: Poscurso management and fiscal responsibility tribal

Platform: Resource management and fiscal responsibility — tribal resource protection and fiscal responsibility shall remain my steadfast goal as I continue to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Tony Bell Creek District

Church: Jenks United Methodist **Education/Experience:** Sapulpa High School, OSU Okmulgee, 30 Years in business, I live in Kiefer, Okla., with my wife of 32 years. I have over 20 years of business experience with 10 of those as an executive director for a large retail organization.

Platform: Our Nation has become a large employer in our state and influential in our communities. I believe my experience in business and my reputation for honesty and integrity is crucial to all positions within the tribe for our continued growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

Contact information: Facebook — Tony Bell, 918-321-9511



Hazel A. (Grace) Bunner Okmulgee District

Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco
Church: Thlopthlocco Methodist
Education/Experience: Psychology/
Sociology, tribal government, research and development, real estate

Platform: I am a mother, grandmother and the former wife of a Vietnam veteran. At this

time in our Nation's history, we need to confront and constructively deal with the issues associated with individual and tribally owned lands, our Native veterans, gender equality in the workplace and the least promoted age group, 35-53. As a candidate, I will strive to promote legislation that will reflect the highest public good and not for one individual, business or department.



Franklin Joseph Coachman Okfuskee District

Clan: Nokosulke (Bear Clan)
Tribal Town: Etvlwv Rakko (Big Town)
Church: Arbeka United Methodist
Ceremonial Ground: Green Leaf
Education: Associate Degree in Science
Haskell University, Studies at Seminole State
College and Oklahoma Baptist University

Platform: As your representative, I will stay committed to making our Nation a stronger one, always looking for the future. I have been honored to serve you as your full-time Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and would like to continue serving in this position with the help of your vote. BANK ON FRANK.



Arlene Harjo Davis Okfuskee District

Clan: Sweet Potato
Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce
Church: Wewoka United Methodist
Ceremonial Ground: Alabama
Education/Experience: Medical field 34
years, with MCN Department of Health
nine years, last five years with the Tobacco
Prevention Program

Platform: Health, education and welfare.



Alvin L. Bucktrot Tulsa District

Clan: Tiger

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground, Sand Creek **Education/Experience:** Associate in Applied Science - Okmulgee Tech; U.S. Army National Guard – Water purification specialist, over 35 years journeyman plumber in private, public and government sectors

Platform: It doesn't take a rocket scientist to

follow the Constitution. If elected, my mission will be to progress and excel citizens to become self-sufficient and eradicating barriers that lead to poverty. Every vote I make will ask, "Will this benefit the ENTIRE MCN?" Whether you're a Christian, traditionalist, or non-believer, I urge you to vote.



Johnnie (Chalakee) Greene Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes District

Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Kialegee
Church: Springtown United Methodist
Education: Coweta Schools, Haskell
Institute, Tulsa Business School

Platform: I will continue to be an advocate for providing quality health care and housing for our elders. A high priority is also helping our

youth continue their education through Higher Education programs and supporting the College of the Muscogee Nation. I also believe preserving our language and culture is imperative in all our communities. First and foremost, I will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution and law.



No challengers filed to face incumbents, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muskogee District Rep. Mose 'Pete' Beaver and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, which gives them an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.

Nelson Scott Harjo Okmulgee District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama Quasarty

Church: Tekopytce

Ceremonial Ground: Alabama Education: Associates applied science

Platform: Community is what we are, a group of people who live together with a shared culture and heritage. Our communities

together form the Mvskoke Nation. Using demographics and statistics allow us to gain insight to work with communities better through business, healthcare and social programs. Citizens are the trunk of the tree of the Mvskoke Nation. Every community today, every community in the future, will need to be strong and self-sufficient in order for us to grow and flourish as a Nation.



Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Ufala
Church: Buckeye Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Mason Public School, OSU-Okmulgee, Cherokee Nation Head Start-Transportation training specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation-Community

Research and Development, MCN Gaming-general manager, Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise-marketing director and general manager

Platform: If elected as the National Council representative of the "Great Muscogee Nation," I plan to utilize my work experience and education to help our tribe/communities to progress forward. It is time for CHANGE! I plan to focus on our healthcare, economic development, education and culture. With your help, we can make a difference! MVTO.



Clan: Beaver (Echaswv)
Tribal Town: New Tulsa
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Depew H.S., Tulsa Air Park, employed in the Aviation Industry for NORDAM 26 years. Supervisor and serving on the College Program Advisory Committee (Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, three years.)



Platform: I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation the next four years and am hopeful that we can have a united government that can work together to bring industry and economic development to our Nation so that we may prosper to meet the health, education and welfare needs of our Nation.

Robert Hufft Tulsa District

Clan: Deer

Church: Asbury Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University with 30 years of corporate experience, over 20 years as controller for a Tulsa company and over 12 years of tribal government experience. I have served as ex-officio to the Gaming Authority Board and served as second speaker to the



National Council as well as served on various committees.

Platform: I believe it's time for the Nation to re-evaluate our resources and assets to provide a plan to our citizens on how to utilize those assets to meet the needs of the citizens and prepare for our future.

Timothy A. Jackson, Jr. Wagoner District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Weogufkee **Church:** First Baptist of Coweta

Education/Experience: Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University; Construction management – project engineer and small business owner – Narcomey Designs, certified associate

will inform our people with complete transparency.

constructor of the American Institute, OSU
Construction Management Advisory Board member, Associated General
Contractor member, Steering Committee member of the Construction

Platform: My purpose is to serve our people, give the government back to our people and gather input from the people for our Nation's future. I

Contact information: 918-344-1949, narcomeydesigns@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/ElectTJackson

David Jimboy Tukvpvtce District

Leadership Council

Tribal Town: Tulmochussee (inactive)

Church: Methodist

Education/Experience: Okemah High School, Military 1973-1975, USMC. 3rd Marine Divison 1st Amtrac Bn., Evacuation Operation-Vietnam; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Honorable Discharge. Chickasaw

Nation Health System healthcare security officer 16 years. Served Holdenville Indian Community as vice-chairperson five years and now chairperson.

Platform: I believe as a member of my community, we need to work as a team. Birthplace - Sapulpa; Father -William (Bill) Jimboy, Mother-Helen (Harjo) Jimboy; Home - Holdenville. Married to Mrs. Jensie Lee (Powell) Jimboy 35 Years. Father five children, grandfather 14 children, two greatgrandchildren.



Clan: Deer

Ceremonial Ground: Weogvfke/Muddy

Water

Education/Experience: A.S. business administration, 13 years experience NAHASDA, HUD, ONAP and other housing programs, 10 years experience as environmental professional, eight years experience historic/cultural preservation, 15

years experience construction budgeting/contracts.

Platform: I believe Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. If given the opportunity, I will use my working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance.

Edwin Marshall Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce

Church: Alabama Quassarte Indian Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Tukvpvtce (inactive) Education/Experience: Bachelor of social work, ECU. Experience spanning four administrations - Election Board chair, National Council representative, division director, program manager, Constitution Convention vice-chair and chief of staff.



Platform: Citizens indicate a desire to move forward as MCN has the potential for. Political contention and lack of citizen inclusion (along with selective distribution of resources) has caused the majority to become indifferent and disinterested as evidenced by voter apathy. I won't be defined by special interest or politicians and vow to keep the citizens' will as my priority.







Sandra Peters Okmulgee District

Clan: Ancient Mother Clan Wind **Tribal Town:** Arbeka-Tulladega **Church:** Trinity Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: B.A. art education, Master's study-educational psychology and theological studies, past representative, tribal administration leadership in economic development



Platform: We are a strong Nation, having passed through wars, separation and despair. We negotiate business on a corporate level acquiring for economic profit-driven aspirations from our resources, our intellect, utilizing tribal sovereignty. We uphold the sacred trust at our ceremonial grounds and churches, our language a testimony to our creator God. I am running on the belief in what is good, honest and right. My heart is for the growth of MCN. MVTO.

Tom O. Pickering McIntosh District

Clan: Sweet Potato Tribal Town: Hichiti

Church: West Eufaula Indian Missionary

Baptist

Education/Experience: OSUIT - 17 years, National Council, chairman Tribal Affairs Committee and Community Service Committee, Health Board member, chairman

of Roads Committee and Economic Development Committee, seven years community chairman, five years community board member

Platform: Councilmen should be a visionary and must listen to the citizens to make decisions. I believe in planning for the future needs of our people and ensure funds will be available for them. We need to protect our sovereignty, people and employees. We must invest in our young and find ways to help our elderly. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-618-2015

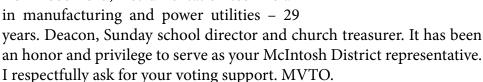
Darrell Proctor McIntosh District

Clan: Deer "ECOVLKE"

Church: Weogufkee Missionary Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Associates Degree in computer integrated systems service, OSUIT, National Council representative from 2008-2015; instrumentation technician



Wife of 25 years, Robin; daughters, Kelsey and Amberly; son, Darrell II; mother, Minnie (Proctor) Cannon; grandparents, the late Andy and Judy (Lasley) Proctor.

Sharon Wyatt Britt Rose McIntosh District

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Arbeka/Nuyuka Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: Graduated from Graham, Weleetka 1980, graduated from Oklahoma School of Business in Tulsa, 1981, legal secretarial degree, SHIP counselor, CAC counselor for the Affordable Care Act.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation 5-2006 to present contract health coordinator/ patient benefits coordinator.

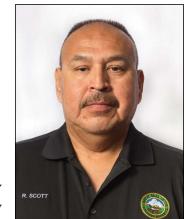
Platform: I will strive to bring accountability to our citizens and strive to ensure that all employees are supported indulgently. I will work for the citizens that are in and out of our jurisdiction to the fullest. Health/ education/tribal and housing will be a priority. MVTO.

Rufus Scott Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama **Church:** Alabama Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Alabama

Education/Experience: Army Military Police Academy, Council on Law Enforcement Education Training, Wetumka Board of Education 18 years, board president 16 Years

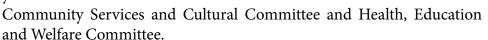


Platform: I have been married to my wife Judith for 27 years. We have a daughter, Kristi and a son Brad, a grandson, Oskewyske and a granddaughter Peyton. I am Lighthorseman and also a member of the Myskoke Nation Honor, serving as treasurer for 17 years. I would like to bring back fairness to all citizens and not a chosen few. I will be committed and listen to you the citizen.

Pearl (Chalakee) Thomas Okmulgee District

Clan: Nokose Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Honey Creek UMC

Education/Experience: BS Education, Northeastern State University- retired from Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years, National Council representative for four years and served on Council committees -



Platform: Moving the Nation forward while staying loyal to the citizens and traditions. I promise to represent the citizens to the very best of my ability so that our Nation will have a bright and prosperous future for our children and grandchildren.

'Carol' Eugenia Tiger Okfuskee District

Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Fishpond Church: Springfield UMC

Education/Experience: High school - Long Beach California, Anchor Glass Container 34 years, Creek Nation Election Board 16 years



Platform: My job as your Council representative would be to work for you. All community needs are important to me-church, ceremonial and community groups. I would like to see our Nation move forward and set higher standards to serve our people. From our youth to our elders, we can focus on the important issues and support one another. If elected, I would proudly serve you!

Contact information: Cell - 918-716-8267, Hompvs.ci@gmail.com, Facebook: Vote Carol Tiger Okfuskee

Eleanor 'Irene' Van Buskirk Tulsa District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Kvncvte **Church:** Newtown Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelor Of Administration. Background: outpatient services (alcoholism and drug abuse); financial analyst (small business development), entrepreneurial trainer.



Platform: I live in Glenpool and was born to Esther (Simmers) and Elmer Van Woudenberg. Attend services for world-wide leaders. Children: Chasilee, Josiah and Elijah; six grandchildren: Aubree, Tristan, Jeffery, Kristie, Elizabeth and Zay. I will provide services with the best delivery possible with God's blessings. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-946-6542, eiwhitebird@gmail.com, Facebook-Elect Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk





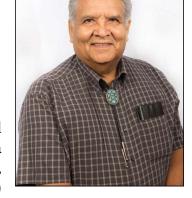
Sam 'Gene' Whitlow Tukypytce District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground

Church: Thewarle Baptist, member, deacon

Education/Experience: Dustin HS, Haskell Institute, building construction; Oklahoma State Tech, building technology, diploma, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge (1967) MCN Housing Authority director, tribal

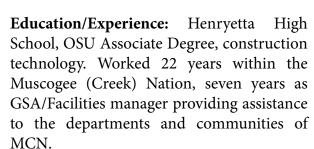


compliance officer. Knowledge of federal programs in finance and grant implementation. Letter carrier USPO; owned and operated construction companies. Fluent Myskoke speaker - Retired

Platform: I have two daughters, three sons and live in Dustin. Tribal programs are for the people. We are entrusted to respectfully administer programs for their betterment and for continual improvement. Please support me for your representative. MVTO.

Dean WilliamsOkmulgee District

Clan: Bird Church: Baptist





Platform: Help build a stronger Nation. My goal is to ensure that all appropriations legislation is for the benefit of the citizens and the Nation. I would like to implement more funding for education, elders and the preservation of our culture. All Myskoke people deserve a tribal government they can be proud of.

Grover Wind Okmulgee District

Tribal Town: Kvsehtv **Clan:** Nokosvlke

Education/Experience: High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah and ordained minister at New Beginnings Church, Henryetta. Graduate of Okemah High School (1969); college hours from Tulsa Community College and University of Tulsa. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force-Honorable Discharge.



Platform: Planned progress - I am an advocate for tribal enterprise development that will broaden our economic base. Education - I strongly support the development of educational programs, especially funding for scholarships for citizens who are working on degrees or obtaining technical training. Senior citizens - Funding for meals, transportation and activities for seniors in need. Employee Development - Provide opportunities to upgrade skills.

Lena Wind Okfuskee District

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Alabama

Church: New Beginnings Henryetta

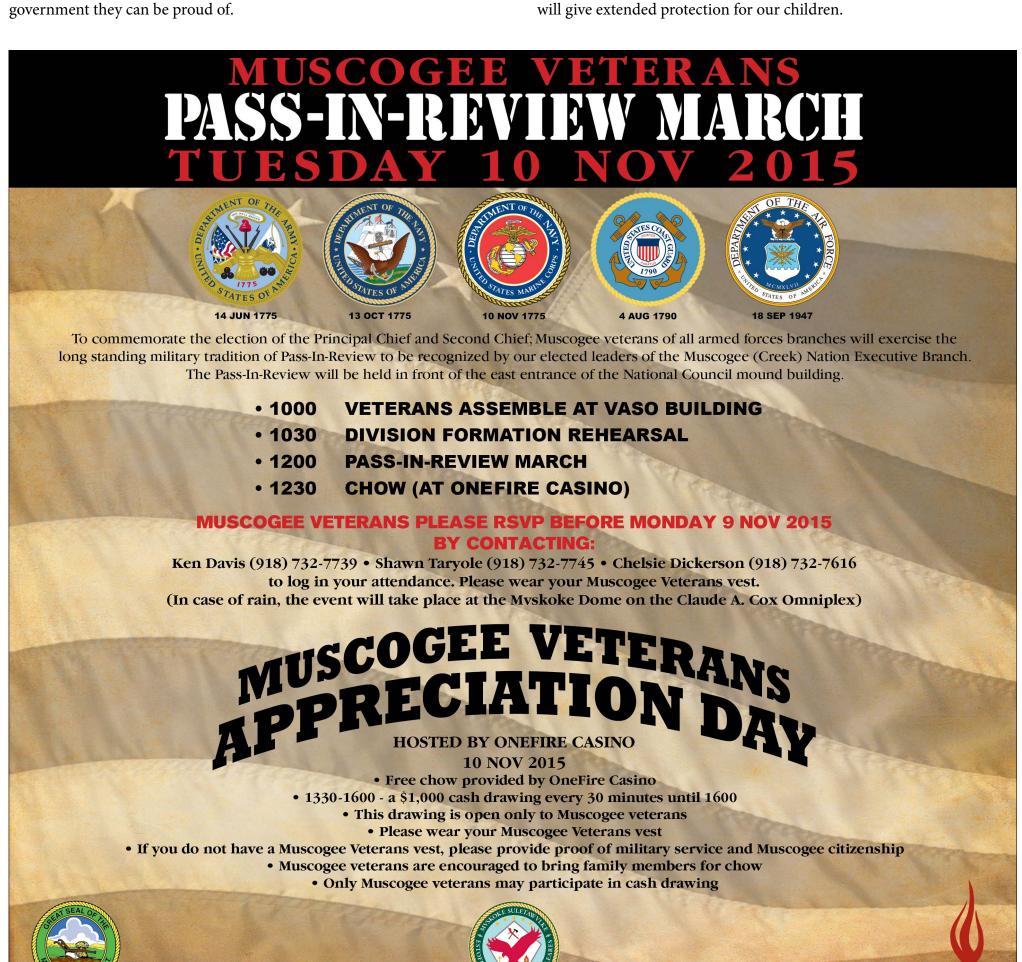
Education/Experience: B.A.ED., NSU, Tahlequah; M.S. ED., OCU, Oklahoma City; 10 years National Council representative, 21 years tribal programs, Okemah Indian Community chair, founding member of the



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MCN Scholarship Foundation, member of the MCN Health Board, Member of the OIC Economic, P.S. teacher 12 years.

Platform: Lifelong resident of the Muscogee Nation. There is work needed to address issues with our child welfare. Codes need to be changed that will give extended protection for our children.



A Myskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation MUSCOGEE NATION P

CRD hosts informational community development meeting

Citizens look to create community in Beggs

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department held an informational session Aug. 20 at the Handy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Beggs.

The meeting served to educate interested Muscogee (Creek) citizens on forming a MCN chartered community in the area.

"If in fact they want to start Beggs - 3

a community, we want to help guide them through this process and train them for the different areas like economic development, Roberts Rules of Order, how to conduct meetings and financials, how to keep your books and all those kinds of things. We want to be available to do that and offer that to them," CRD Director Floyd Jones said.

MCN Assistant Attorney



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department, Training Coordinator Cassandra Thompson presents the steps for forming a MCN chartered community to citizens Aug. 20 during an informational session at the Handy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Beggs, Okla.



A yoga class was held for participants of the ninth annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit Aug. 27 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee, Okla.

Health department advocates proactive approach

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health and the Dewar Creek Indian Community held the ninth annual MCN

9th annual diabetes awareness summit held

Citizens' Diabetes Awareness Summit Aug. 27 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee.

event you know as diabetes is the number one concern across Indian Country and the key to diabetes control is prevention,"

said MCNDH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith.

According to the American "This is an very important Diabetes Association, at nearly 16 percent, American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest age-adjusted prevalence of diabetes among all U.S. racial

and ethnic groups.

"We're always trying to get individuals. They don't have to have diabetes but individuals who are interested in learning

Summit - 2

Citizen couple purchases local business



Muscogee (Creek) citizens Travis and ShaRee Scott purchased the Parks Brothers Ace Hardware store in Okemah, Okla.

MCN Commerce Department assists with acquisition

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) couple Travis and ShaRee Scott purchased Couple - 2

the Parks Brothers Ace Hardware store in Okemah.

Travis worked at the store for 20 years, starting at an entry level position and advancing to manager.



MNN File Photo

Success center aimed at supporting students

Guidance offered through facility

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - According to the College of the Muscogee Nation website, the CMN Student Success Center Success ~ 7

strives to help students adapt to college life by supporting them through the entire enrollment process when they first enter the school.

SSC offers academic advise-

Officials discuss FY 2016 budget at meeting

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. - A Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council extraordinary session, called for by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, was held Aug. 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Tiger requested the session to discuss the Fiscal Year 2016 budget with Council representatives.

Council Speaker Thomas Yahola said at the meeting that preparation of the budget is an executive function and referred to MCN Constitution Article V, Section 3.

"It is the constitutional responsibility of executive office to draft and prepare the budget in the best interest of the Nation," Yahola said. "The National Council's role is approving the budget and subsequently appropriating operating funds to the Nation."

Tiger requested that the legislative and executive branches work together for a solid and collaborative government.

"We are here to offer to you an opportunity to work together addressing this comprehensive budget," Tiger said.

Tiger said that the number Muscogee (Creek) citizens has increased by 13 percent, the permanent fund has grown by 38 percent, workforce by 38 percent and that the Nation has experienced a greater demand for services in a time of rising costs and inflation.

"This means our budgets have necessarily increased over the past years as citizenship, programs, services and needs have increased," Tiger said.

Cabinet members gave reports from their departments on how potential budget cuts might affect their respective departments.

All sixteen Council representatives were present for the meeting.

The budget hearings for August were canceled. New dates for budget hearings have not been announced.

FY 2016 begins Oct. 1, 2015.

A video of the session can be viewed at: http://mcnnc. com by clicking on the Aug. 20 meeting link under the 'Achieved Council Meetings' tab from the home page.

For a direct link visit: http://mcnnc.com/index. php/archived-meetings.

SUMMIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

how to prevent diabetes," said Eufaula Clinic Diabetes Program, Exercise Program Manager Kimberlee Little.

Harold Hamm Diabetes Center Educators gave the conference presentations.

The conference covered the differences between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, controlling, prevention and treatment of diabetes, nutrition and exercise tips.

"Probably the majority of our individuals come through here have diabetes or they at least have a family who has diabetes so it affects them directly," Little

Ninety-five percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives with diabetes have Type 2 as opposed to Type 1.

The conference offered classes on Zumba and gentle yoga to get people active and showed techniques on how to ease certain aches and pains.

Free foot examinations were offered to test the circulation

and sense of feeling in the lower extremities, which is one damaging effect of the disease.

"We want people to understand that diabetes, although it's a disease, it can be prevented." Little said. "If you get diabetes, it can be sustained; you can actually live a healthy life with diabetes."

It is estimated that 30 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have pre-diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association.

The summit was free and geared toward Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

However, spouses or support persons for tribal citizens as well as other American Indians living in the MCN communities were also welcome.

"We try to put it in different areas so that everyone will get an opportunity to come and see what we have," Smith said.

For more information about diabetes visit an MCN healthcare facility.

It is estimated that 30 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives have pre-diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association. Ninety-five percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives with diabetes have Type 2 as opposed to Type 1.

COUPLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was fresh out of not really knowing much about the hardware business. I was tutored by some other individuals that worked here," Travis said.

When the Parks family wanted to retire and sell the business, they gave the Scotts the option to purchase it.

"When the opportunity came up, I told ShaRee, 'I think it is a good investment for us," Travis said.

Travis approached the Banc-First Okemah branch for a business loan and branch president Lloyd Pickering felt it was providence for the bank to do business with them.

"That business has been a customer of Okemah National Bank formed in 1902 when the town was formed," Pickering

Pickering also expressed joy about the transaction.

"I have had the opportunity to know Travis as he has been in that store for 20 years. I have got a ranch and done a lot of business with the store," Pickering said. "He has done a great job and we just, I guess I am along for the ride to celebrate a little bit because we just couldn't be happier with what's been done."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Commerce Department assisted the Scotts in the acquisition.

"We are working with our Creek citizens and wherever we can help, we would like to," Commerce Department Business Development Specialist John Blue said.

The Scotts are looking forward to working with more vendors to increase the products they can offer customers.

"Being a smaller community, not having the advantage of the Oklahoma City, Tulsa areas, we have to have a more broad selection," Travis said. "So, our customers don't have to drive out of town to have that merchandise."

All of the six employees are Muscogee (Creek) citizens and the Scotts plan to hire two to four more people.

For more information, contact ShaRee Scott at: 918-623-

Agriculture workshops hosted in MCN jurisdiction

Food Sovereignty offers community training

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative and the University of Arkansas School of Law, Food and Agriculture Initiative hosted an agriculture and business workshop Aug. 13 at the College of the Muscogee Nation in Okmul-

Some of the topics covered were food safety regulations, food production legal issues and risk management tools. The workshop targeted food businesses, farmers and ranchers.

Farm Credit Council Small Beginning Farmer Programs and Outreach, Vice President Gary Matteson was on-hand to teach financial skills and illustrate monthly cash flow budget-

"It is thinking through, 'What do I have? Where do I want to go? What do I need for resources and what do I expect for outcomes from a business?' " Matteson said.

Indigenous Food and Agri-

culture Director and Chickasaw Nation citizen, Janie Hipp said people tend to underestimate the legal aspects involved with businesses especially food busi-

"Food has always been heavily legally bound up, heavily regulated. It's just always good to get new developments out there to people and the food safety pieces are becoming more and more complicated," Hipp said.

The workshop will be available to view online in the near future. MFSI Executive Director Lizanna Holata said they have been working on several new

Gathering the Gatherers teaches children and youth about Native foods.

and upcoming projects.

"It is about the children going out and learning about the Native foods we have in our areas that we can cook and eat and make things with and we took the children out to pick blackberries," Holata said. "Of course next spring, we are going to take them out to pick wild onions."

The next food they plan to gather is possum grapes. MFSI is seeking citizens who have the grapes growing on their properties and would be willing to share. In the coming months, they also plan to gather hickory nuts and talk about which game animals will be in season.

"There are a lot of things out there that our children have never seen before," Holata said. "If it ever came down to it and they had nothing, you can always go out and find food."

Another planned project will be held in conjunction with childcare centers to teach children how to garden.

MFSI has built raised garden beds at the different childcare locations. A master gardener along with garden techs are scheduled to work with the chil-

"They are going to let them put the seeds in and cover it up with the dirt because the babies love to play in the dirt," Holata said. "Then, we have our little worm farm, a little worm community. We show them how to take care of the worms."

For more information call: 918-756-5915.

Mvskoke Women's Leadership holds fundraiser



Jewelry was displayed at the Mvskoke Women's Leadership auction held Aug. 27-28 in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Event aimed at furthering mission

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Mvskoke Women's Leadership group held a jewelry auction Aug. 27-28 in the Executive Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The auction raised \$680, which will be used for the MWL annual awards banquet in March.

"It was just a way to recognize other women who are doing great things," MWL chairperson Cherrah Giles said.

Giles said the organization did not have a set amount they were trying to raise, but the funds gave MWL a bigger head start than in previous years. She also said MWL has had a steady amount of active participants.

"Where we are now in our development, is we do have set officers: myself as chair, Dr. Dwanna Robertson as vicechair, Terra Beaver as treasurer and Lauren Randall as our secretary," Giles said.

MWL is currently pursuing a nonprofit classification through the State of Oklahoma, as the group was not started by MCN.

The organization's main initiative is a focus on mentorship with regular meetings held between the mentors and those being fostered.

"It is a consistent purpose that you are putting into that relationship," Giles said.

Meeting attendance is on a

come-and-go basis with locations rotating. Giles said the group was, "always meant to be free flowing."

Giles said if MWL expands into a full program, she would like to examine the needs of the communities more.

"As Myskoke people, we did take care of one another," Giles said. "As women, I think we continue to make our place and take our place here in this Nation."

The next MWL meeting will be held Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. at the Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

For more information about call: 918-520-9161, MWL, email: mvskoke.wl@gmail.com or follow the group on Facebook www.facebook.com/MvskokeWomensLeadership.

MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND

arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov

MvskokeMedia

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN

Coweta Tire gets boost from Mvskoke Loan Fund



Jessica McBride/MNN

Lee Rankins works in the Coweta Tire shop, located in Coweta, Okla. Coweta Tire is owned by Cherokee Nation citizen Bryan Echols.

Tire shop offers financing

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

COWETA, Okla. — Cherokee Nation citizen Bryan Echols set out on a journey in 2013 and did not look back.

After years being self-employed in the construction world, Echols helped out a friend in a tire shop. It was not long before he opened his own in Coweta.

Coweta Tire was in business for 14 months when Echols decided he needed a helping hand.

"I was kind of at a plateau and I just could not seem to get far enough ahead to buy some new equipment," he said.

Echols was referred to the Mvskoke Loan Fund by a friend and made a call to them in February.

He received a loan for new equipment that boosted his business to a higher level.

"We can change twice as many tires as we used to change and have been," Echols said.

Coweta Tire sells new and used tires for all types of vehicles including cars, semitrailers and farm and implement vehicles. The shop also performs light mechanic work for brakes, belts

Echols has two employees and is one of only a few tire shops that offer financing arrangements.

Qualifying customers can make a \$59 down payment towards their purchase and then pay the amount owed within 90 days or make payments for the term of the loan.

Echols is excited to offer financing for customers who are trying to make ends meet.

He also offers a 10 percent discount to Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Echols' goal for Coweta Tire is honest service.

"We're not going to sell you something you don't need," he said. "If you need a tire, we'll tell you, you need a tire. If you don't need a tire and we can fix it, we're going to fix it."

Echols said he might not have every tire, but he will order it if necessary and loan the customer a tire until the new one arrives.

Echols said he recommends tires based upon the quality of the product and the warranty.

He wants customers to be satisfied with the service they receive and not be in fear of being ripped off.

Coweta Tire performed in the top 10 for sales for the Hercules Tire and Rubber Company the first year it was open.

"My goal is to be in the top five this year," Echols said.

The Myskoke Loan Fund is certified through the U.S. Department of the Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund and can assist small businesses in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 11-county jurisdiction with loans and funding.

To contact Coweta Tire, call: 918-486-TIRE (8473), or like them on Facebook at: www. facebook.com/pages/Cowetatires/706880846013474?fref=ts.

BEGGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

General JoEtta Toppah spoke about MCN Code Annotated Title 11, which affects the chartered communities and the Community Development Block Grant.

Jones emphasized that forming a community would not be an overnight process.

"It's really not a complicated process. It's a step-by-step process," Jones said.

To form a chartered MCN community, individuals would need to create a constitution, obtain approval from the MCN Attorney General's Office and the Office of the Principal Chief.

The community would also need to consider whether or not they would like to pursue economic development.

CRD will serve as the resource for forming the community, and be able to assist in the process.

Jones said that the time frame to form the community would be up to the community members.

The BCIC boundary area could include a regional gap in the Beggs

area of Okmulgee County and potentially border boundaries of the Bristow, Okmulgee, Wilson and Okfuskee communities.

"There may be overlap of boundaries that will possibly have to be negotiated with other communities that now have those boundaries because Beggs Indian Community was not there in the past," Jones said.

BCIC could also negotiate boundaries with the surrounding communities.

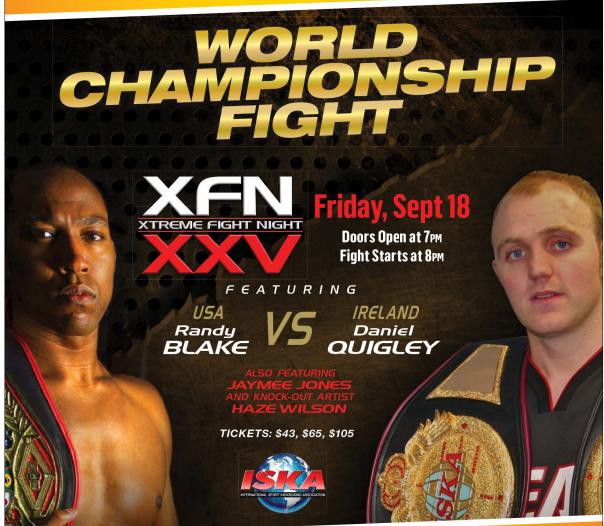
According to www. censusviewer.com, a population of 1,321 was reported for Beggs during the 2010 census. Those that listed their race as Native American made up 12.49 percent of the population.

Morris Creek Indian Community was the last community to receive an MCN charter in 2010.

There are currently 24 recognized MCN communities.

For more information on CRD or forming an MCN chartered community, call: 918-732-7963.

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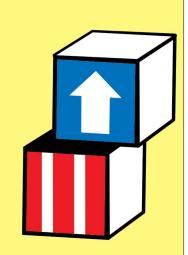
is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

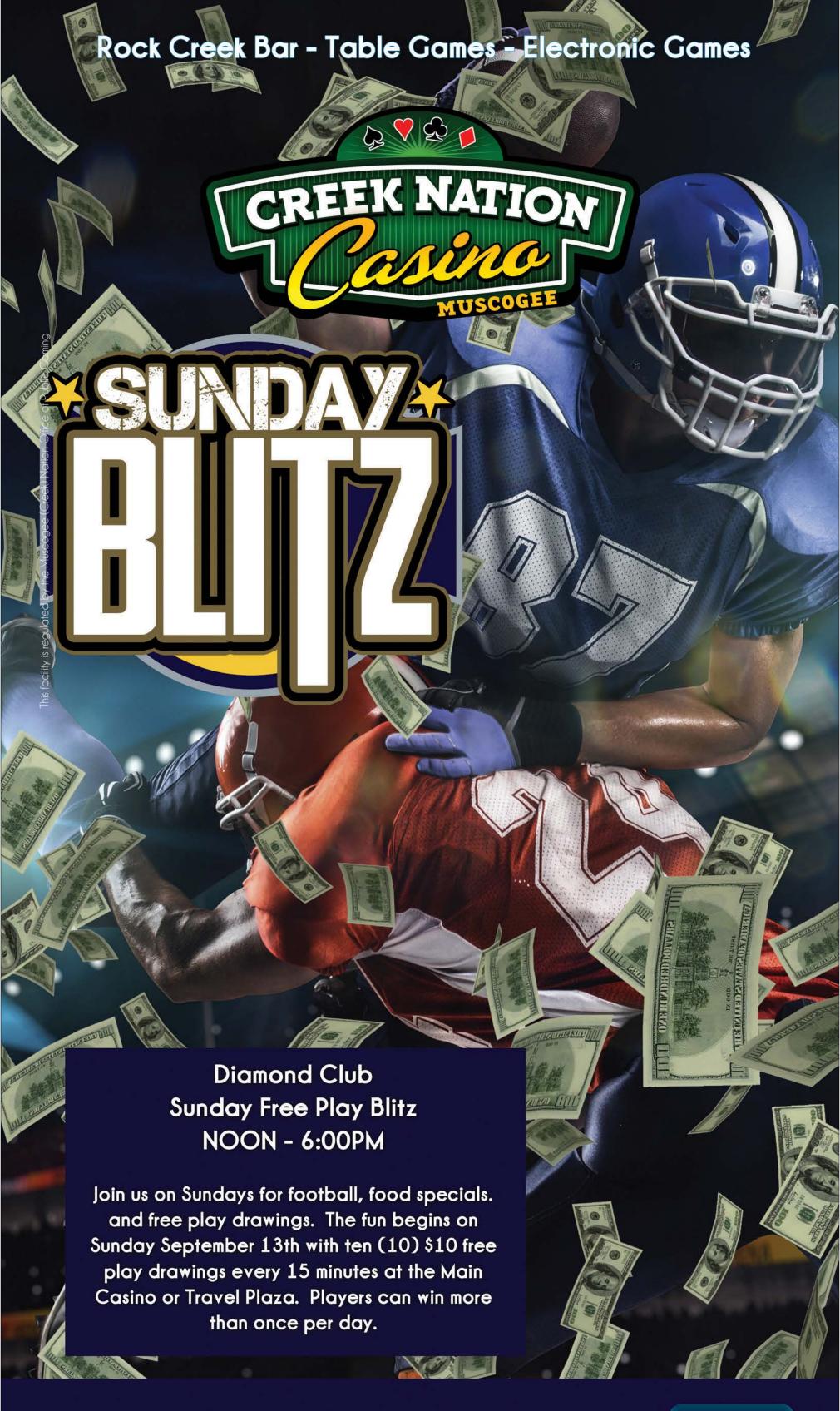
Requirements for the program will include:

- Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st
- Income Verification (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)
- Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Child's medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.





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Community grant amendment passed during Council session

\$800k approved for Mound building renovations

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Aug. 29 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 15-135 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute a license renewal application between MCN and Oklahoma State Department of Health for the MCN Department of Health hospital facilities. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This application is aimed at keeping MCNDH licensed to practice medicine in Oklahoma.

• TR 15-136 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an affiliation agreement between MCN and Seminole State College. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH wishes to provide learning opportunities for a potential future laboratory technology workforce.

• TR 15-137 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Zeiss Meditec Inc. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

legislation allows The MCNDH to do business with the medical technology company that, according to the Zeiss website, '... Enables healthcare professionals worldwide to improve the lives of their patients in ophthalmology (dealing with the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the eye), microsurgery (surgery requiring an operating microscope) and other medical growth sectors.

• TR 15-138 Authorizing the secretary of health to execute an ambulance provider application and associated documents between MCN and OSDH for MCNDH emergency medical services. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The state has set licensure standards to certify that medical institutions under the OSDH jurisdiction, meet certain requirements in order to provide ambulance services for their patients.

• TR 15-139 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and Okfuskee and Okmulgee counties. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides funding for the construction and improvement of roadways serving Indian communities.

Okmulgee and Okfuskee counties wish to enter into a memorandum of understanding with MCN to repair 8.44 miles of pavement between state highway 84 and Burlington Northern Railroad.

• TR 15-140 Establishing tribal membership in the National Congress of American Indians. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to their website, 'Founded in 1944, NCAI is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organiza-

tion serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities.'

• TR 15-141 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a license application for a nursing or specialized facility between MCN and OSDH for the MCNDH skilled nursing facility. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH operates such a facility and needs periodic licensure through the state to continue doing so.

• TR 15-142 Authorizing the principal chief to execute agreements with the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority and the Oklahoma City Area Office of the Indian Health Care Service for MCNDH to receive Medicaid reimbursements. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to the OHA website, SoonerCare is a state and federal funded program that helps pay some or all medical bills for people who cannot afford them.

Some MCNDH patients use this program and the department would like reimbursement through it for providing services to these individuals.

• TR 15-143 Authorizing MCNDH to submit a renewal application to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency required by the Controlled Substances Act. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

To provide medical treatment to patients, MCNDH needs to procure, store and prescribe narcotic and nonnarcotic medication and by law, is required to register annually with the DEA to do so.

• TR 15-144 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Affairs, Office of Information Management Technology, Division Information Operations, for DOI-GEN access for the MCN Realty Trust Services Department. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN Realty provides real property information for MCN and its citizens and wishes to utilize DOI-GEN, a secure federal information technology system to help do so.

• TR 15-145 Authorizing a quiet title action to resolve title issues on real property owned by MCN located in McIntosh County. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The Nation purchased an approximate two-acre property in Checotah and was informed by a title insurance company that MCN does not have a clear title due to a missing release of mortgage on the property.

MCN Realty was unable to locate the individual needed to execute the aforementioned release and needs a quiet title action filed in McIntosh County District Court to resolve the issue and obtain a clear title.

• TR 15-146 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Wagoner County for improvements to Oneta Road. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN and Wagoner County are seeking to do a partial asphalt overlay and widen pavement on a roadway located on County Road N410, beginning at the intersection of East 121st South just west of Coweta and extending north to the intersection of East 101st South.

The county will conduct preconstruction planning and the Nation will do the pre-activities; award the contract for work; monitor, inspect and test the work performed and cover all reasonable and agreed upon expenses out of the \$2.45 million cost for the project.

This funding will be provided through the Federal Highway Administration and the county will be responsible for all maintenance after completion.

• TR 15-147 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the improvement of a roadway and associated right-of-way by MCN TTP. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

TTP has funds available for a proposed one-mile roadway project on Highway 16 in Beggs beginning one-half mile west of the intersection of County Road NS 389 and proceeding one-half mile east.

OKDOT has agreed to maintain the project afterwards.

• TR 15-148 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with Hughes County for improvements to Calvin Road. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The county wishes to reconstruct 400 feet of damaged roadway on County Road EW 141, beginning east of the County Road D3799 intersection and extending eastward.

MCN will conduct the preconstruction planning and acoperate and manage the busi-

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration website, a surety bond ensures contract completion in the event of contractor default. The contractor obtains the bond from a surety company and if they default the company is obligated to find another contractor to complete the contract or compensate the project owner for the financial loss incurred.

• TR 15-152 Approving the absentee counters for the 2015 MCN National Council primary and general elections. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

This legislation would approve the following counters who were submitted by the MCN Election Board for approval: Annette Lowe, Tukvpvtce; Georgia Frye, Muskogee; Sonya July, McIntosh; Janice Bailey, Okmulgee; Mona McManus, Wagoner; JoAnn Lowe, Tulsa; Lucy Tiger, Creek and Pat Widdoes, Wagoner. LaShona Baccus and Doris Roanhorse would be Okmulgee alternates.

• TR 15-153 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a master retail services agreement with Cox-Com LLC and Cox Oklahoma Telecom LLC for MCN gaming operations. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN law requires GOAB to get approval when entering into contract exceeding one

• NCA 15-175 Authorizing the expenditure of \$318,463.40 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Officer of Indian Education through the State Tribal Education Partnership Grant to promote increased collaboration between tribal educational agencies, state educational agencies and local educational agencies that serve students from affected tribes. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Education and Training Department has applied for the grant to hire staff and pay for teacher professional development to increase success for Muscogee (Creek) students and develop collaborative and cooperative relationships with local schools within the MCN jurisdiction.

• NCA 15-176 Authorizing a \$2,308.14 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jude Prieto withdrew from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology due to medical hardship and was unable to get his tuition fees waived. He wishes to return to finish his degree but cannot until the mentioned amount is paid.

• NCA 15-178 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Six-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Meske Proctor requests financial assistance to attend the Sheffield Academy Soccer Program.

• NCA 15-179 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Eleven-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Denim Goff requests financial assistance to compete in barrel racing at the Arrington-McSpadden All-Indian Rodeo Association Region 8 Finals.

• NCA 15-180 Authorizing a \$100,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Legal Services Citizen Department. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department needs additional funds to properly meet an increase in demand from citizens for their services.

• NCA 15-181 Amending NCA 15-143 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the Tribal Construction Services Department). Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment changes the original bill to allow a carry over of unexpended funds until they are spent instead of being returned to the Tribal Treasury.

• NCA 15-182 Authorizing a \$3,000 special appropriation to the Peachground Ceremonial Ground. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The ground is hosting their Little and Big Brother (east vs. west) stickball game Sept. 12-13, in which four other grounds will participate. They request assistance for

covering the cost of ten camps to purchase food, beverages and paper goods for visitors

Sterling Cosper/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Developmen

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Department, Director Floyd Jones addresses the MCN National Council during the Aug. 29 Council regular session.

tivities; award the contract for work; monitor, inspect and test the work performed and cover all reasonable and agreed upon expenses out of the \$225,114.06 cost for the project.

This funding will be provided through the FHA and the county will be responsible for all maintenance after completion.

• TR 15-149 Amending TR 15-098 (Approving a grant of easement for water line right-of-way to Wagoner County Rural Water District #5 at the Koweta Food Distribution Center). Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The amendment adds that the easement approval on behalf of the Council will be without compensation and by waiving the appraisal and consideration for damages.

• TR 15-151 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a BIA business operation lease on restricted property regarding the Muscogee Indian Community Smoke Shop. Reps. Lucian Tiger, Pete Beaver and Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The community wishes to reopen their smoke shop on tribal property and have Ronnie Boswell operate and manage it, agreeing to pay MIC \$1 per carton purchased not to be less than \$2,000 a month.

MCN waives a surety bond because Boswell is not leasing the property but occupying it to year and the board wishes to enter into the multi-year agreement with Cox to utilize its services for conducting day-to-day business.

• TR 15-154 Authorizing renovation to the Tulsa Creek Indian Community building. Tiger and Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The community wishes to remodel the patio adjacent to their building and by MCN law, will pay the cost estimate of \$59,500, transferring the funds to MCN prior to construction upon approval of the project with MCN Tribal Construction overseeing the project thereafter.

• TR 15-155 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a facility use agreement for between MCN and the Green Country Technology Center for the purpose of renting seminar rooms. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention Program wishes to rent the rooms to hold a program event.

• NCA 15-174 Authorizing a \$5,901 special appropriation to Covenant Harvest Ministries. Rep. David Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The church, located in Sapulpa, has a 90 percent Muscogee (Creek) citizen membership and requests assistance with replacing their air conditioning system.

Legislation - 6

LEGISLATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and players.

• NCA 15-183 Authorizing a \$5,000 appropriation to the Eufaula Indian Club. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The club is asking for assistance to cover expenses associated with their 'Honoring Our Veterans' Labor Day powwow.

• NCA 15-184 Authorizing a \$25,000 appropriation for the tribal membership fees of NCAI. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

This is the amount set, based on annual income, by NCAI by-laws for membership in the organization. View the tiered table for revenue-based dues here: www.ncai. org/membership/tribal-membership.

• NCA 15-185 Repealing Title 11, Chapter 3, titled, 'Grant Funds for Economic Development and Social Service Program' and replacing it with a new Title 11, Chapter 3, titled, 'Annual Funds for Operational Costs, Economic Development and Social Service Programs of Chartered Communities.' Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Hufft, Nichols and Hill voting against it.

The Community Development Block Grant annually provides financing to the communities for their operations. The grant was originally divided up among them based on their economic status.

Since a shortfall of funding was reported regarding the current system, the amendment would create a Community Operation and Development Fund in its place, providing a set amount of \$1.5 million to be divided up equally and provided in three increments not to exceed \$20,000 over the year in a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.

For the first year of implementation for this act, the funds will be distributed through two increments in January and May, followed by financial reporting in April and September, with the second portion provided up to \$25,000 to cover the month of September.

An application for the Fiscal Year 2017 funds should accompany the September report.

In FY 2017, and every following year, the COD is scheduled for distribution in October, February and June with reports due in January, April, July and September.

The application and necessary documents requesting the funds are due to the MCN Community Research and Development Department by 5 p.m., Dec. 1, 2015 for the first year of implementation and Sept. 1 for FY 2017 and every one thereafter.

To receive new funds, expenditure reports are also due at set increments along with the return of previously received, unused funds. Attendance of at least two CRD quarterly trainings by a member or members of the community board/officers is also required, with an emphasis on the chairperson or treasurer.

It adds to the section of the tribal code that states the

communities may pursue grant funds from available sources, enter into business ventures and/or initiate and/or expand their social services programs, further outlining that this, along with their use of the COD Fund, must be done according to their policies and procedures.

The COD may not be used for: board or member stipends; personal mileage, rent, mortgage or loans; vehicle purchases; per capita payments; board meals or mobile phones. The money must be kept in a separate community account and not be co-mingled with any other community funds.

It abolishes the annual Christmas funds and van appropriations.

Expenditures must be reported monthly to the members, changing the previous procedure where expenditures must be approved by community vote.

The active 25-chartered communities would be eligible to apply for the COD.

If funds are not dispersed due to noncompliance with the aforementioned requirements, they will be returned to the treasury and no retroactive release will be allowed.

• NCA 15-186 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Micah Jared requests financial assistance to compete in the Heartland Classic soccer tournament with his team, the Bixby Highlanders 04 Boys Black Team.

• NCA 15-187 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Office of Child Care FY 2013 federal funds. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department wishes to reallocate certain excess federal funds for the personnel and fringe.

• NCA 15-188 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Telephony Department FY 2015 budget. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department wishes to reallocate certain excess funds to

pay the MCN phone bill.

• NCA 15-189 Amending
MCN Code Annotated Title
16, Chapter 10, Subsection 10205 in order to authorize the
MCN Athletic Commission to
regulate combative sports contests on behalf of other federally
recognized Indian tribes. Rep.
Frank Coachman sponsored the
amendment, which passed 14-0.

The commission may regulate contests within said tribes' boundaries if MCN law governs the event, a written contract is entered into between the commission and said tribe(s) and these contracts are reviewed by the MCN Attorney General's Office

• NCA 15-190 Appropriating \$800,000 to the Mound Building oversight committee for the first phase of the Mound Building renovation. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The building needs repairs to address leaks and mold issues. MCN personnel will conduct property improvements and three proposals will be obtained before selecting a contractor. No construction will begin and financial obligation taken without approval from the Tribal Construction manager.

• NCA 15-191 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Department of Housing Crime Prevention FY 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department would like to reallocate funds in supplies and equipment maintenance, to equipment in order to upgrade the security equipment for rental property in Okmulgee and Checotah.

• NCA 15-192 Authorizing a \$15,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Environmental Services. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will be used to provide solid waste services such as dumpsters or port-a-johns to more ceremonial grounds, Indian churches and MCN communities.

• NCA 15-193 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the Weleetka Little League Football Organization. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

They wish to use the money to purchase football equipment.

• NCA 15-194 Authorizing the expenditure of \$395,278 awarded from the District Attorney's Council through the Victims of Crime Act for the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program and MCNDH to develop the sexual assault nurse examiner service. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will be used to develop a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners service at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee and Creek Nation Hospital in Okemah.

• NCA 15-195 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for MCN CRD FY 2015 budget. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The CRD wishes to reallocate certain excess funds to make necessary purchases for the department.

• NCA 15-196 Amending NCA 15-110 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation to MCN CRD to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the MCN chartered community buildings). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Due to the sometimes lengthy process of bidding on certain projects, some of the money will not be expended before the end of FY 2015 and CRD asks that the appropriated funds be carried over until fully expended in order to provide more maintenance and repairs to the buildings.

• NCA 15-198 Amending MCNCA Title 3, Chapter 3 titled, 'Medical Travel Assistance.' Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizens are eligible when they travel more than 25 miles to receive medical treatment. The assistance provides reimbursement or pre-payment for toll and parking fees, gas, food and or/lodging. Assistance may be paid up to \$2,000 in a lifetime. Cancer patients may be eligible for assistance up to \$10,000 (updated from \$5,000) a lifetime on a case-by-case basis.

• NCA 15-199 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN FVPP FY 2015 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

FVPP wishes to reallocate certain excess federal funds for other expenses.

• NCA 15-200 Amending

15-109 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Housing and addition to the force account to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the MCN chartered community buildings.) Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Due to the sometimes lengthy process of bidding on certain projects, some of the money will not be expended before the end of FY 2015 and Housing asks that the appropriated funds be carried over until fully expended in order to provide more maintenance and repairs to the buildings.

• NCA 15-202 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Seventeen-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Tayah Harjochee requests assistance in covering expenses related to her participation in the 2015 Miss Teen Oklahoma City competition.

• NCA 15-204 Amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 10, titled, 'Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizen Legal Services Department' by creating a new subsection titled, 'services provided.' Barnett and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment outlines the following available services:

Basic elder law needs, such as probate and guardianship; basic estate planning, such as simple wills, deeds, durable powers of attorney and advanced healthcare directives; guardianships of minor children; community education programs and presentations; regularly scheduled chartered community meetings; outreach site visits to senior center activities; commodity distribution sites; elderly nutrition sites; tribal towns and other tribal social service agencies and legal services necessary to protect the restricted property of individual citizens and the property of MCN churches and ceremonial grounds from trespass and other issues adversely affecting title to the property.

Ade was excused.

The upcoming regular session is scheduled Sept. 26.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the 2010 MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN District Court website at: www. muscogeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Program fair held at Southern Regional Office

MCN entities present services to area citizens

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

WETUMKA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments and programs came together Sept. 2 to host a program fair at the Southern Regional Office in Wetumka.

Every year, this fair takes place to allow MCN departments and programs to share information about the services they offer and provide to citizens that live in or close to the Wetumka area.

"It's an opportunity for citizens to come out and see what's available here at the Southern Regional Office... also, for the programs that don't routinely come here, they also get to come down and see what our office base looks like and if they need to consider moving and having a full satellite office here in Wetumka," said MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles.

MCN departments and programs handed out information, hosted games, provided lunch and set up for voter registration.

"We are trying to take care of our people more on a local level. I think the Southern Regional Office certainly does that," said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

There are currently 14 services offered through the SRO.

"There are a number of thing that we're doing here at the southern part of our jurisdiction," Tiger said. "People can come here instead of coming all the way to Okmulgee."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and Wetumka resident Yvette Powell shared her thoughts about the program fair and the advantages created by the office.

"It's letting people know that we have services available for the tribal members that may not know in this area," Powell said. "They won't have to go all the way to Okmulgee if they don't have the transportation and it provides them with the necessities here."

MCN entities who provide service through the SRO include: Citizenship, Lighthorse, Tax Commission, Housing, Family Violence Prevention, Employment and Training, National Council, Women Infants and Children, Food Distribution, Social Services, Child Care, Head Start, Transit and the Health Center.

"We had some new programs move in so we're excited to introduce it. Our transit program is now here. We have full social services available down here now," Giles said.

For more information about the days and times these services are available call the SRO at: 405-452-1100.

There are currently 14 services offered through the SRO:

Citizenship, Lighthorse,
Tax Commission,
Housing, Family Violence
Prevention, Employment
and Training, National
Council, Women Infants
and Children, Food
Distribution, Social
Services, Child Care, Head
Start, Transit and the
Health Center.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

VICKIE CHECOTAH



TULSA, Okla. — Vickie Lynn Checotah, a resident of Tulsa, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015 at the age of 61. She was born July 11, 1954 to Roman Checotah and Vernia (Grayson) Checotah.

She was a member of the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church, the Women of the Moose Lodge, ACS, TBA, Inhouse Moose mixed doubles and competitive league international. Vickie attended Okmulgee schools until her junior and senior years and then went to Eufaula Boarding School. She graduated from Eufaula High School in 1972.

She attended Okmulgee Tech from 1984-1986 and graduated on the director's honor roll with a degree in printing. She also attended Platt College in Tulsa for law enforcement where she graduated with a 3.2 GPA. Vickie loved sports such as college and pro football as well as women's college and pro basketball. Vickie loved volleyball and playing pool.

She was preceded in death by her: parents, Roman and Vernia Checotah; son, Jeremy Alford; sister, Georgia Hughes; brothers, Charles Chance and Everett Checotah and grandmother, Lizzie Lowe Grayson.

Survivors include her: granddaughter, Jeremie Grace Ann Alford of Broken Bow; brothers, Johnny Checotah and wife, Jerry of Oklahoma City and Roman Checotah and wife, Janelle of Okmulgee; sisters, Linda Walters and husband, Allen of Liberty Morris; Yvonna McComb and husband, Steve of Mertzon, Texas and Nancy Elmore and husband, Robert of El Cajon, Calif.; sister-in-law, Etta Checotah; aunt, Mary Ann Kane; her closet friends, Mary Kame, Sybil Phillips, Mona McIntosh, Debbie Wood, Marianne Willis, Kitty Lull and Phyllis Elkins; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Services were held Aug. 17 at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church. Burial followed the service at the Okmulgee Indian Baptist Cemetery.

Viewing was held Aug. 16 at the Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service, 220 S. Alabama Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Pallbearers were: Daniel Checotah, Sky Checotah, Terry Flager, Corey Russell, Windell Chance, Kevin Chance and Colby Checotah.

Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service.

Family and Friends may view the obituary and send condolences online at: www.schaudtfuneralservice.com



MATTIE LOWE



HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Mattie Lowe, 82, passed away in Holdenville Aug. 7, 2015 with her family by her side. She was born Feb. 4, 1933 in Wetumka to Daniel Tiger and Ellouise Marshall (Herrod) Tiger.

She was raised in Wetumka where she also attended school. Mattie Tiger married Alex Lowe June 16, 1951 and together they began raising their children. Mattie was a devoted servant of the Lord and wife. She enjoyed assisting her husband in the ministry, reading her Bible and going to church.

Mattie loved reading, singing, crocheting and knitting. Mattie was a loving mother who enjoyed caring for her family.

Cooking was her specialty and her family loved to gather at her home for the wonderful homemade meals she prepared for them.

She was preceded in death by her: parents; daughter, Elizabeth Lowe and brothers, Eugene Tiger, Daniel Tiger and Johnson Tiger Jr.

Survivors are her: children, Barbara Kaser and husband, Mark of Houston, Texas, Anita Lowe of Catoosa, Donna Lowe of Catoosa; brothers, Billy Fields of Wetumka, Bobby Tiger of Holdenville, Leon Tiger of Oklahoma City; sisters, Phyllis Lowe of Holdenville, Doris Anderson of Holdenville, and Pat Herrod of Holdenville and 16 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A wake service was held Aug. 10, 2015 at the Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home in Holdenville.

Funeral services were set for Aug. 11, 2015 at Wetumka Indian Baptist Church with Revs. Mitchell Taylor and Billy Fields officiating.

Pallbearers were: William Griffin, Zack Tiger, Ezekiel Griffin, Johnson Tiger, David Griffin and Edwin Marshall.

Interment was at the church cemetery under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home of Holdenville.

GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR SEPT. 19

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A Mvskoke gospel singing is set for 6 p.m., Sept. 19 at Concharty United Methodist Church, 19040 Garfield Road in Okmulgee. Dinner will begin at 4 p.m. and for more information call: 918-366-8450.

REVIVAL SET FOR SEPT. 27-29

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. — Springtown United Methodist Church, 28107 E. 41st, has set a revival for Sept. 27-29 starting at 7 p.m. nightly. Rev. Jimmy Anderson will speak the first night followed by Rev. Jamie Moss the second and Bill Stone on the last. For more information call Paul Tecumseh at: 918-270-0231.

OCMA ELECTION SET FOR OCT. 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an officer election for Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. for: chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

For more information call the OCMA office at: 405-605-2621.

MCNDH now offering orthodontic services

MCNDH/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health Dental Department is currently providing "Preventive" and "Interceptive" Orthodontics. These branches of orthodontics target our younger patients and can help to reduce the severity of the dental problem and possibly lessen the likelihood of needing traditional braces later in development.

Preventive/Interceptive Orthodontics typically includes appliances that maintain or create space to allow permanent teeth to erupt, or appliances that correct facial skeletal growth.

We will soon begin offering "Comprehensive" Orthodontics (braces) for those patients who are beyond preventive or interceptive orthodontics, either due to age or severity of the case.

For more information please contact the Okemah Dental Clinic at (918) 623-3016 or 3018.

SUCCESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment, career counseling, retention support, testing, student senate advisors, community outreach and tutoring.

"One of the things that we do, is we do outreach to high schools and any other organizations or community groups that want us to come out; to learn more about the college," said SSC Coordinator Jake Jackson.

The mission of SSC is to assist CMN students in completing their higher education

aid."

CMN offers four associate degrees including: Native American studies, tribal services, gaming and police science as well as certificates in gaming or Mvskoke language.

"We try to evaluate where they're interested in. What degree they're going after," Jackson said.

son said.

CMN classes began Aug. 31 and the college anticipated their largest enrollment to date.

One of the things that we do is we do outreach to high schools and any other organizations or community groups that want us to come out; to learn more about the college."

— SSC Coordinator Jake Jackson

goals by enhancing academic skills through services, programs and culture.

Once a student has chosen CMN as their higher education institution, one of the first places they will visit on the campus in Okmulgee is SSC.

"We do enrollment. We enroll all the freshman, all the new students that come to the college," Jackson said.

By incorporating Muscogee values, the center offers guidance and support in all areas of college life.

"We really just kind of hand carry the students all the way through the process of enrollment," Jackson said. "We help them do everything from their testing, their placement, try to help them with their financial "I think that part of that would be the student center that opened because it has a lot of amenities," said SSC Counselor Elsa Lowe.

Along with classrooms, offices and a science lab, the CMN student center contains a café, library, fitness center and bookstore. "I think that having a more

unified area for students to hangout is an attraction," said Lowe.

The college also offers concurrent enrollment to high school students.

For more information about CMN, call: 918-549-2800 or go online to: www.mvsktc.org.

The Student Success Center

can be reached at: 918-549-

2847.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION WICCPROGRAM

HEALTHY FOODS BUILD HAPPY FAMILIES

Locations

Glenpool Eufaula Okemah Okmulgee Broken Arrow Coweta Sapulpa Seminole Shawnee Stroud Tulsa Wetumka

For an appointment please call
918-549-2790 or 1-800-648-2302
You do not have to be Native American
to apply for our program.

Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.





#MCNVOTE2015 — Primary: Sept. 19 / General Nov. 2

MCN principal chief candidates

James Floyd Principal Chief

Clan: Wind Tribal Town: Koweta

Ceremonial Ground: Tvlahasse/Wvkokaye **Education/Experience:** Master's degree, post-masters certifications, managed \$2 billion budget, 9500 employees — Integrity -Top Secret Security Clearance —Teamwork established IHS/VA sharing agreements —



Innovation - Created VA/ tribal reimbursement and telehealth programs

Platform: While establishing successful programs for tribes nationally, my heart remained here, hoping to return to serve our tribe. I have acquired unique skills to better utilize current investments and improve efficiency of service delivery, with full financial and personnel accountability, through 35 years senior executive expertise with Veterans Health, IHS and MCN. Not accepting donations - just your vote. MVTO.

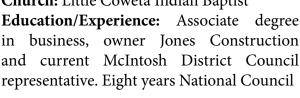
Contact information: 918-671-7008, Floyd2015.com

Adam Jones III Principal Chief

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Koweta

Church: Little Coweta Indian Baptist





Platform: I am 44, married 14 years to my wife, Amanda. We have five children and raise them in Stidham. This has given me insight to make needed changes. Areas include healthcare, economic development and education. I seek to provide our children with a secure future and become self-reliant. I will work hard for you, because all our children depend on it. You can't have change by adding more of the same. MVTO!

David Nichols Principal Chief

Clan: Wotko (Racoon) Tribal Town: Tukupvtce

Church: Salt Creek United Indian Methodist Education/Experience: High school/20 years National Council representative

Platform: My platform is clear. I will represent our Nation in a manner that brings pride

upon us all. I will focus resources on the health, education, housing and the overall welfare of each citizen. I will bring financial accountability to the business practices of our Nation and ensure the business development will engage in benefits of our Nation's citizens. To each action I take as principal chief, I will ask myself 'would the elders and the veterans be proud of this action?' MVTO.



MNN candidate profile disclaimer

All candidate profiles are placed in alphabetical order by last name as written by the candidates and do not necessarily reflect the views of the 'Muscogee Nation News.' The profiles were loosely edited for spelling, grammar, length and Associated Press style. The following release ran on either pages one or two of the June 15, July 1 and July 15 editions of the 'Muscogee Nation News' as well as other media outlets to inform all candidates of the rules before the filing period. These rules were strictly adhered to with no exceptions: 'MNN staff will be on-hand during registration at the Tribal Conference Room on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee to take photos and workstations will be set up for those filing to fill out or submit their 100 total word limit bios. No information will be changed after candidates leave the polling area and photo submissions/retakes will not be allowed. Portraits cannot be used for candidates' campaign material. Word limits must be strictly adhered to and will be cut at staff discretion if they go beyond the amount allotted.'

Those with questions or concerns may contact MNN Editor Sterling Cosper at: 918-732-7697 or scosper@mcn-nsn.gov or Mvskoke Media Director Christina Good Voice at: 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.

George Tiger Principal Chief

Clan: HOTVLE (Wind)

Tribal Town: O'CE VPOFV (Hickory

Ground)

Church: Yardeka Indian Baptist Ceremonial **Ground:** O'CE **VPOFV**

(Hickory Ground)

Education/Experience: Morris HS, Haskell

Indian Junior College, NSU, Honorary

Doctorate - Bacone, Multi-term National Council member, current principal chief, first language and fluent Mvskoke speaker

Platform: Reflects the traditions, culture and language needs of our most valuable and precious resource – our tribal citizens. Increase the wealth of our Nation by expanding opportunities for our citizens, keeping healthcare, education and housing as top priorities and promoting positive economic progress. MVSKOKE ETVLWV'VLKE HESAKETV-MESE OHMERRVS! (May God continue to bless the Muscogee (Creek) Nation!)

Thomas Yahola Principal Chief

Platform: The responsibility of a principal chief is to exhibit integrity, transparency and accountability in caring for his people.

Today that is maintaining and improving health, education, and a higher standard of living for his people. Being a chief, he must set the example for others to follow. With your vote, this is my pledge to you.



The above listed characteristics have been my lifetime foundation. They were formed by my traditional upbringing, discipline gained in military service and knowledge gained through education and work experiences. I sincerely request your vote for principal chief, MVTO.

MCN National Council Seat A candidates

Shirlene M. Ade Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Katcvlke

Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Many Springs Baptist

Education/Experience: Employed 25 years federal government. I worked for IHS, Tinker AFB, Department of the Army (McAlester Army Ammunitions Plant) retired in 2005, two years early to work and serve Creek citizens more effectively. Mother: Elizabeth Narcomey, Holdenville. Father: Frank Lewis, Eufaula.

Platform: We have a challenge to face our future addressing the needs of our Creek Citizens in a modern setting, through innovative and technological means, but it must remain essentially Muskoke Etvlwv. To accomplish this, our government must remain IN an OF our culture and IN and OF our people.

Samuel Scott Alexander Tulsa District

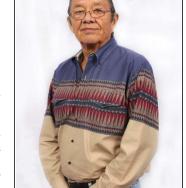
Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Church: Member of Montesoma Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Lives in Broken Arrow. A graduate of Northeastern State College, he manages his CPA practice located in Wagoner. First confirmed tax commissioner (tribal defendant) during tobacco litigation

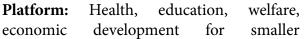


with Oklahoma, Gaming Operations Authority Board chair when bingo halls converted into casinos, National Council representative for eight years, speaker in 2012-2013, three daughters, two granddaughters, senior athlete, running and basketball.

Platform: His candidacy for National Council representative offers unmatched financial experience, vast tribal background and candor to the concerned voter.

Wilson Bear McIntosh District

Clan: Bear Tribal Town: Eufaula-Canadian **Church:** Protestant **Ceremonial Ground:** Eufaulagee **Education/Experience:** B.S. Psychology/ Sociology



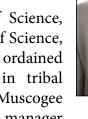
communities that will create jobs, Social Service and Elderly Housing will play a big part as your representative.



Ceremonial Ground: New Tulsa Clan: Aktvkculke

Church: New Beginnings Baptist

Education/Experience: Master of Science, industrial management, Bachelor of Science, management, environmental minister, 15 years employment in tribal government, 10 years serving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I currently serve as manager



of the Environmental Services Department for the tribe and I am honored to work alongside dedicated professionals who continually protect the tribe's resources.

Platform: Resource management and fiscal responsibility — tribal resource protection and fiscal responsibility shall remain my steadfast goal as I continue to serve the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Tony Bell Creek District

Church: Jenks United Methodist **Education/Experience:** Sapulpa High School, OSU Okmulgee, 30 Years in business, I live in Kiefer, Okla., with my wife of 32 years. I have over 20 years of business experience with 10 of those as an executive director for a large retail organization.

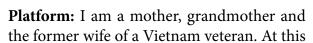


Platform: Our Nation has become a large employer in our state and influential in our communities. I believe my experience in business and my reputation for honesty and integrity is crucial to all positions within the tribe for our continued growth and prosperity for all tribal members.

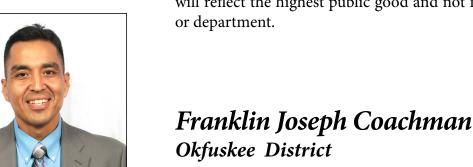
Contact information: Facebook — Tony Bell, 918-321-9511

Hazel A. (Grace) Bunner Okmulgee District

Clan: Bird Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco **Church:** Thlopthlocco Methodist **Education/Experience:** Psychology/ Sociology, tribal government, research and development, real estate



time in our Nation's history, we need to confront and constructively deal with the issues associated with individual and tribally owned lands, our Native veterans, gender equality in the workplace and the least promoted age group, 35-53. As a candidate, I will strive to promote legislation that will reflect the highest public good and not for one individual, business



Clan: Nokosulke (Bear Clan) Tribal Town: Etvlwv Rakko (Big Town) **Church:** Arbeka United Methodist Ceremonial Ground: Green Leaf Education: Associate Degree in Science Haskell University, Studies at Seminole State College and Oklahoma Baptist University



Platform: As your representative, I will stay committed to making our Nation a stronger one, always looking for the future. I have been honored to serve you as your full-time Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative and would like to continue serving in this position with the help of your vote. BANK ON FRANK.

Arlene Harjo Davis Okfuskee District

Clan: Sweet Potato Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce **Church:** Wewoka United Methodist Ceremonial Ground: Alabama Education/Experience: Medical field 34 years, with MCN Department of Health nine years, last five years with the Tobacco Prevention Program



Platform: Health, education and welfare.

Alvin L. Bucktrot Tulsa District

Clan: Tiger

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground, Sand Creek **Education/Experience:** Associate in Applied Science - Okmulgee Tech; U.S. Army National Guard – Water purification specialist, over 35 years journeyman plumber in private, public and government sectors

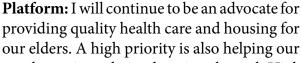


Platform: It doesn't take a rocket scientist to

follow the Constitution. If elected, my mission will be to progress and excel citizens to become self-sufficient and eradicating barriers that lead to poverty. Every vote I make will ask, "Will this benefit the ENTIRE MCN?" Whether you're a Christian, traditionalist, or non-believer, I urge you to vote.

Johnnie (Chalakee) Greene Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes District

Clan: Wind Tribal Town: Kialegee **Church:** Springtown United Methodist **Education:** Coweta Schools, Haskell Institute, Tulsa Business School



youth continue their education through Higher Education programs and supporting the College of the Muscogee Nation. I also believe preserving our language and culture is imperative in all our communities. First and foremost, I will honor the Muscogee (Creek) Constitution and law.



No challengers filed to face incumbents, Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council, Muskogee District Rep. Mose 'Pete' Beaver and MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, which gives them an immediate victory per the MCN Election Board.

Nelson Scott Harjo Okmulgee District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama Quasarty

Church: Tekopytce

Ceremonial Ground: Alabama Education: Associates applied science

Platform: Community is what we are, a group of people who live together with a shared culture and heritage. Our communities

together form the Mvskoke Nation. Using demographics and statistics allow us to gain insight to work with communities better through business, healthcare and social programs. Citizens are the trunk of the tree of the Mvskoke Nation. Every community today, every community in the future, will need to be strong and self-sufficient in order for us to grow and flourish as a Nation.

Randall Darrin Hicks Okfuskee District

Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Ufala
Church: Buckeye Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Mason Public School, OSU-Okmulgee, Cherokee Nation Head Start-Transportation training specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation-Community

Research and Development, MCN Gaming-general manager, Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprise-marketing director and general manager

Platform: If elected as the National Council representative of the "Great Muscogee Nation," I plan to utilize my work experience and education to help our tribe/communities to progress forward. It is time for CHANGE! I plan to focus on our healthcare, economic development, education and culture. With your help, we can make a difference! MVTO.



Clan: Beaver (Echaswv)
Tribal Town: New Tulsa
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Education/Experience: Depew H.S., Tulsa Air Park, employed in the Aviation Industry for NORDAM 26 years. Supervisor and serving on the College Program Advisory Committee (Spartan College of Aeronautics & Technology, three years.)



Platform: I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation the next four years and am hopeful that we can have a united government that can work together to bring industry and economic development to our Nation so that we may prosper to meet the health, education and welfare needs of our Nation.

Robert Hufft Tulsa District

Clan: Deer

Church: Asbury Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelors degree from Oklahoma State University with 30 years of corporate experience, over 20 years as controller for a Tulsa company and over 12 years of tribal government experience. I have served as ex-officio to the Gaming Authority Board and served as second speaker to the



National Council as well as served on various committees.

Platform: I believe it's time for the Nation to re-evaluate our resources and assets to provide a plan to our citizens on how to utilize those assets to meet the needs of the citizens and prepare for our future.

Timothy A. Jackson, Jr. Wagoner District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Weogufkee **Church:** First Baptist of Coweta

Education/Experience: Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University; Construction management – project engineer and small business owner – Narcomey Designs, certified associate

constructor of the American Institute, OSU Construction Management Advisory Board member, Associated General Contractor member, Steering Committee member of the Construction Leadership Council

Platform: My purpose is to serve our people, give the government back to our people and gather input from the people for our Nation's future. I will inform our people with complete transparency.

Contact information: 918-344-1949, narcomeydesigns@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/ElectTJackson

David Jimboy Tukvpvtce District

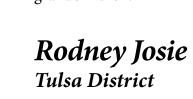
Tribal Town: Tulmochussee (inactive)

Church: Methodist

Education/Experience: Okemah High School, Military 1973-1975, USMC. 3rd Marine Divison 1st Amtrac Bn., Evacuation Operation-Vietnam; National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Honorable Discharge. Chickasaw

Nation Health System healthcare security officer 16 years. Served Holdenville Indian Community as vice-chairperson five years and now chairperson.

Platform: I believe as a member of my community, we need to work as a team. Birthplace - Sapulpa; Father -William (Bill) Jimboy, Mother-Helen (Harjo) Jimboy; Home - Holdenville. Married to Mrs. Jensie Lee (Powell) Jimboy 35 Years. Father five children, grandfather 14 children, two greatgrandchildren.



Clan: Deer

Ceremonial Ground: Weogvfke/Muddy

Water

Education/Experience: A.S. business administration, 13 years experience NAHASDA, HUD, ONAP and other housing programs, 10 years experience as environmental professional, eight years experience historic/cultural preservation, 15

years experience construction budgeting/contracts.

Platform: I believe Muscogee (Creek) Nation should be seeking ways to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. If given the opportunity, I will use my working experience, as well as a strong desire to implement this belief. Other issues of interest are: well-being for the elderly, education, cultural preservation, youth services and improved emergency assistance.

Edwin Marshall Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Tukvpvtce

Church: Alabama Quassarte Indian Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Tukvpvtce (inactive) Education/Experience: Bachelor of social work, ECU. Experience spanning four administrations - Election Board chair, National Council representative, division director, program manager, Constitution Convention vice-chair and chief of staff.



Platform: Citizens indicate a desire to move forward as MCN has the potential for. Political contention and lack of citizen inclusion (along with selective distribution of resources) has caused the majority to become indifferent and disinterested as evidenced by voter apathy. I won't be defined by special interest or politicians and vow to keep the citizens' will as my priority.







Sandra Peters Okmulgee District

Clan: Ancient Mother Clan Wind **Tribal Town:** Arbeka-Tulladega **Church:** Trinity Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: B.A. art education, Master's study-educational psychology and theological studies, past representative, tribal administration leadership in economic development



Platform: We are a strong Nation, having passed through wars, separation and despair. We negotiate business on a corporate level acquiring for economic profit-driven aspirations from our resources, our intellect, utilizing tribal sovereignty. We uphold the sacred trust at our ceremonial grounds and churches, our language a testimony to our creator God. I am running on the belief in what is good, honest and right. My heart is for the growth of MCN. MVTO.

Tom O. Pickering McIntosh District

Clan: Sweet Potato Tribal Town: Hichiti

Church: West Eufaula Indian Missionary

Baptist

Education/Experience: OSUIT - 17 years, National Council, chairman Tribal Affairs Committee and Community Service Committee, Health Board member, chairman

of Roads Committee and Economic Development Committee, seven years community chairman, five years community board member

Platform: Councilmen should be a visionary and must listen to the citizens to make decisions. I believe in planning for the future needs of our people and ensure funds will be available for them. We need to protect our sovereignty, people and employees. We must invest in our young and find ways to help our elderly. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-618-2015

Darrell Proctor McIntosh District

Clan: Deer "ECOVLKE"

Church: Weogufkee Missionary Indian

Baptist

Education/Experience: Associates Degree in computer integrated systems service, OSUIT, National Council representative from 2008-2015; instrumentation technician in manufacturing and power utilities - 29

years. Deacon, Sunday school director and church treasurer. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your McIntosh District representative. I respectfully ask for your voting support. MVTO.

Wife of 25 years, Robin; daughters, Kelsey and Amberly; son, Darrell II; mother, Minnie (Proctor) Cannon; grandparents, the late Andy and Judy (Lasley) Proctor.

Sharon Wyatt Britt Rose McIntosh District

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Arbeka/Nuyuka Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

Education/Experience: Graduated from Graham, Weleetka 1980, graduated from Oklahoma School of Business in Tulsa, 1981, legal secretarial degree, SHIP counselor, CAC counselor for the Affordable Care Act.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation 5-2006 to present contract health coordinator/ patient benefits coordinator.

Platform: I will strive to bring accountability to our citizens and strive to ensure that all employees are supported indulgently. I will work for the citizens that are in and out of our jurisdiction to the fullest. Health/ education/tribal and housing will be a priority. MVTO.

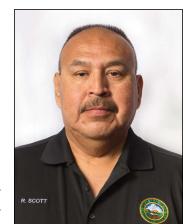
Rufus Scott Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Alabama **Church:** Alabama Baptist Ceremonial Ground: Alabama

Education/Experience: Army Military Police Academy, Council on Law Enforcement Education Training, Wetumka Board of Education 18 years, board president

16 Years



Platform: I have been married to my wife Judith for 27 years. We have a daughter, Kristi and a son Brad, a grandson, Oskewyske and a granddaughter Peyton. I am Lighthorseman and also a member of the Myskoke Nation Honor, serving as treasurer for 17 years. I would like to bring back fairness to all citizens and not a chosen few. I will be committed and listen to you the citizen.

Pearl (Chalakee) Thomas Okmulgee District

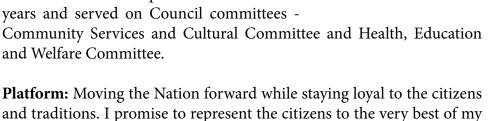
Clan: Nokose Tribal Town: Cheyaha **Church:** Honey Creek UMC

Education/Experience: BS Education, Northeastern State University- retired from Muscogee (Creek) Nation after 18 years, National Council representative for four years and served on Council committees -

Community Services and Cultural Committee and Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

ability so that our Nation will have a bright and prosperous future for our

children and grandchildren.



'Carol' Eugenia Tiger Okfuskee District

Clan: Eco

Tribal Town: Fishpond Church: Springfield UMC

Education/Experience: High school - Long Beach California, Anchor Glass Container 34 years, Creek Nation Election Board 16 years

Platform: My job as your Council

representative would be to work for you. All community needs are important to me-church, ceremonial and community groups. I would like to see our Nation move forward and set higher standards to serve our people. From our youth to our elders, we can focus on the important issues and support one another. If elected, I would proudly serve you!

Contact information: Cell - 918-716-8267, Hompvs.ci@gmail.com, Facebook: Vote Carol Tiger Okfuskee

Eleanor 'Irene' Van Buskirk Tulsa District

Clan: Wind

Tribal Town: Kvncvte **Church:** Newtown Methodist

Education/Experience: Bachelor Of Administration. Background: outpatient services (alcoholism and drug abuse); financial analyst (small business development), entrepreneurial trainer.



Platform: I live in Glenpool and was born to Esther (Simmers) and Elmer Van Woudenberg. Attend services for world-wide leaders. Children: Chasilee, Josiah and Elijah; six grandchildren: Aubree, Tristan, Jeffery, Kristie, Elizabeth and Zay. I will provide services with the best delivery possible with God's blessings. MVTO!

Contact information: 918-946-6542, eiwhitebird@gmail.com, Facebook-Elect Eleanor Irene Van Buskirk





Sam 'Gene' Whitlow Tukvpvtce District

Clan: Bird

Tribal Town: Hickory Ground

Church: Thewarle Baptist, member, deacon

Education/Experience: Dustin HS, Haskell Institute, building construction; Oklahoma State Tech, building technology, diploma, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge (1967) MCN Housing Authority director, tribal

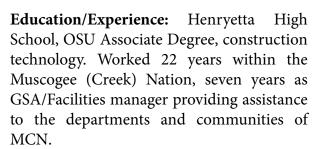


compliance officer. Knowledge of federal programs in finance and grant implementation. Letter carrier USPO; owned and operated construction companies. Fluent Myskoke speaker - Retired

Platform: I have two daughters, three sons and live in Dustin. Tribal programs are for the people. We are entrusted to respectfully administer programs for their betterment and for continual improvement. Please support me for your representative. MVTO.

Dean Williams Okmulgee District

Clan: Bird Church: Baptist





Platform: Help build a stronger Nation. My goal is to ensure that all appropriations legislation is for the benefit of the citizens and the Nation. I would like to implement more funding for education, elders and the preservation of our culture. All Mvskoke people deserve a tribal government they can be proud of.

Grover Wind Okmulgee District

Tribal Town: Kysehty Clan: Nokosvlke

Education/Experience: High Springs Baptist Church, Okemah and ordained minister at New Beginnings Church, Henryetta. Graduate of Okemah High School (1969); college hours from Tulsa Community College and University of Tulsa. Veteran of the U.S. Air Force-Honorable Discharge.



Platform: Planned progress - I am an advocate for tribal enterprise development that will broaden our economic base. Education - I strongly support the development of educational programs, especially funding for scholarships for citizens who are working on degrees or obtaining technical training. Senior citizens - Funding for meals, transportation and activities for seniors in need. Employee Development - Provide opportunities to upgrade skills.

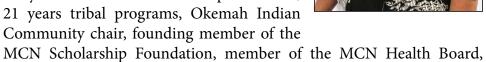
Lena Wind Okfuskee District

Clan: Bear

Tribal Town: Alabama

Church: New Beginnings Henryetta

NSU. **Education/Experience:** B.A.ED., Tahlequah; M.S. ED., OCU, Oklahoma City; 10 years National Council representative, 21 years tribal programs, Okemah Indian Community chair, founding member of the



Member of the OIC Economic, P.S. teacher 12 years. **Platform:** Lifelong resident of the Muscogee Nation. There is work needed

to address issues with our child welfare. Codes need to be changed that

will give extended protection for our children. To commemorate the election of the Principal Chief and Second Chief; Muscogee veterans of all armed forces branches will exercise the long standing military tradition of Pass-In-Review to be recognized by our elected leaders of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Branch. The Pass-In-Review will be held in front of the east entrance of the National Council mound building. **VETERANS ASSEMBLE AT VASO BUILDING** • 1030 **DIVISION FORMATION REHEARSAL** • 1200 **PASS-IN-REVIEW MARCH CHOW (AT ONEFIRE CASINO)** 1230 **MUSCOGEE VETERANS PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MONDAY 9 NOV 2015** BY CONTACTING: Ken Davis (918) 732-7739 • Shawn Taryole (918) 732-7745 • Chelsie Dickerson (918) 732-7616

to log in your attendance. Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest. (In case of rain, the event will take place at the Myskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex)

HOSTED BY ONEFIRE CASINO

10 NOV 2015

Free chow provided by OneFire Casino

- 1330-1600 a \$1,000 cash drawing every 30 minutes until 1600
 - This drawing is open only to Muscogee veterans
 - Please wear your Muscogee Veterans vest
- If you do not have a Muscogee Veterans vest, please provide proof of military service and Muscogee citizenship Muscogee veterans are encouraged to bring family members for chow
 - Only Muscogee veterans may participate in cash drawing





SPONSORED BY

An examination of traditional Myskoke funerary practices — Page 7



A Myskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION N

Emvpanayv: 'One who tells a story'

More sporting poor taste, a mountain reclamation and elections

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hey, did you miss me? I took a couple weeks off to recharge my batteries and take a 'stay-cation' to catch up on some homeowner's chores, other odds and ends and even go to the Admiral Twin Drive-In (A lot of memories there!).

I also got caught in deadline changes, so there was no column for September. So, I'm back and here's catching up on a few items.

The Catholic Church's spiritual leader, Pope Francis visited the City of Philadelphia September. Word has it, one of the requests made by Philadelphians was for the Holy Father to bless the knees of Eagles quarterback, Cherokee Nation citizen and former OU quarterback Sam Bradford. Eagles fans are hoping Bradfords' knees will hold up and carry the team to the next Superbowl. (Maybe Bob Stoops should have thought of that one?)

Hmm, is Bradford a Catholic and would that make any difference?

Mid-August, another tribe turned down money from the Original Americans Foundation of the professional football team from Disneyland-On-The-Potomac.

The Chevenne River Sioux of South Dakota sent back a check for 25k after the tribal rodeo association said it was

Emvpanagv - 8

Unofficial results for 2015 MCN officer elections released



Muscogee (Creek) citizens in the Okmulgee voter precinct turnout Sept. 19 at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center to cast their ballots during the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation officer election primaries.

	PRINCIPAL CHIEF		(
Ĺ	JAMES FLOYD	1,282	27.18%	CHIEF
2	GEORGE TIGER	1,179	25.00%	, L C
3	ADAM JONES III	848	17.98%	CIP/
ļ	DAVID NICHOLS	804	17.05%	PRINCIP
5	THOMAS YAHOLA	603	12.79%	(=

JAMES FLOYD **GEORGE TIGER** ADAM JONES III **DAVID NICHOLS** THOMAS YAHOLA

NATIONAL	COUNCIL	DELEGATES

NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES:							
	Creek District - Seat A		<u>Tulsa District - Seat A</u>				
1	DAVID W. HILL	3,278	74.25%	1	ROBERT L. HUFFT	1,396	31.05%
2	TONY L. BELL	1,137	25.75%	2	ALEXIS BIBLE CROSLEY	710	15.79%
				3	SAM ALEXANDER	669	14.88%
	McIntosh District - Seat A			4	ALVIN L. BUCKTROT	558	12.41%
1	DARRELL PROCTOR	1,779	39.31%	5	RODNEY JOSIE	486	10.81%
2	SHARON WYATT ROSE	1,294	28.60%	6	ELEANOR I. VAN BUSKIRK	414	9.21%
3	TOM PICKERING	893	19.73%	7	DARRIN K. BELL	263	5.85%
4	WILSON L. BEAR	559	12.35%				
	Tukvpvtce District - Seat A						
	Okfuskee District - Seat A			1	SHIRLENE M. ADE	1,028	22.90%
1	RANDALL HICKS	1,216	27.08%	2	RUFUS SCOTT	850	18.93%
2	FRANKLIN COACHMAN	1,124	25.03%	3	EDWIN MARSHALL	773	17.22%
3	LENA LEE WIND	982	21.87%	4	DAVID JIMBOY	747	16.64%
4	CAROL EUGENIA TIGER	696	15.50%	5	SAM GENE WHITLOW	699	15.57%
5	ARLENE DAVIS	473	10.53%	6	CHRIS POWELL	393	8.75%
<u>Okmulgee District - Seat B</u> <u>Wagoner District - Seat A</u>							
1	DEL VINCE BEAVER	1,013	22.40%	1	JOHNNIE CHALAKEE GREENE	2,210	50.24%
2	NELSON SCOTT HARJO	797	17.62%	2	TIMOTHY A. JACKSON JR	2,189	49.76%
3	GROVER D. WIND	651	14.40%				
4	PEARL CHALAKEE THOMAS	609	13.47%				
5	SANDRA PETERS	543	12.01%				

10.95%

9.16%

HAZEL GRACE BUNNER

DEAN WILLIAMS

OSU opens Center for Sovereign Nations



Submission

Elizabeth Payne, Director of the Oklahoma State University Center for Sovereign Nation Engagement and Partnerships (second from right) during an opening ceremony for the center Aug. 21 at OSU campus in Stillwater, Okla.

University aims to foster relationships with tribes

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor Jason Salsman/Native News Today

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In an effort to reach out to tribal Nations across the state, Oklahoma State University launched the Center for Sovereign Nation Engagement and Partnerships during a ceremony Aug. 21 at the OSU campus in Still-

Sovereign - 2



Election Board dates - 8

Jessica McBride/MNN

Butterflies were released during a remembrance ceremony for the 'Stomping Out the Stigma with Hope' event Sept. 10 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation walking twrack in Okmulgee

Walk held to remember those lost to suicide

Speaker discusses battle with mental illness

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In honor of World Suicide Prevention Day, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of

Health sponsored the 'Stomping Out the Stigma with Hope' event Sept. 10 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, to help raise awareness of the public health issue, educate at-

Remember - 3

CORRECTION

The General Election is Nov. 7

The date that ran in candidate profile section beginning with 'Muscogee Nation News' Aug. 1 edition had the date incorrectly listed as Nov. 2

I regret this error and a correction will run on page 1 through the Nov. 1 edition.

Sterling Cosper MNN Editor

Council passes election oversight bill, Tiger responds

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In a Muscogee (Creek) Nation release, MCN Principal Chief George Tiger responded to the passing of Tribal Resolution 15-156 during a Sept. 8 MCN National Council emergency session, which asks the Carter Center Democracy Program to observe the upcoming MCN officer election.

"I am not going to sign the resolution because our election process is outlined in our laws and Constitution and we have to be careful protect our tribal sovereignty.

"Our Constitution supersedes any tribal resolution. Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been around a long time and we've got about 80,000 Creek observers already. I'm not opposed to the Carter Commission, or anyone for that matter, observing our election process, but I put my trust in our Mvskoke laws and the citizens I serve, the Myskoke people, not an outside source," Tiger said.

The resolution, sponsored by Council Speaker Thomas Yahola, passed 9-6 with Reps. Shirlene Ade, Johnnie Greene, Adam Jones, Dode Barnett, Pete Beaver and Joyce Deere voting against it.

Rep. Mark Randolph explained why he voted in favor of it.

"It's free of cost and it's just an extra set of eyes," Randolph said. "We've had people who don't have a lot of faith in the system. I mean, I believe the Election Board does a great job but there's always room for improvement."

Barnett said she disagreed

Oversight - 8

SOVEREIGN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the OSU website, the center has a three-fold mission: ensure that sovereignty of American Indian Nations is respected and recognized in the creation and implementation of initiatives, increase the number of Native graduates as well as the number and quality of partnerships between OSU and tribal Nations.

"We had the opportunity to visit with the leaders of several Nations within the state and they each endorsed the value of having a central point of contact and certainly that does not mean an only point of contact," CSNE Director Elizabeth Payne said. "But they said the university, especially for someone that's not part of the university, can be sort of large and a bit complicated."

They decided to develop a more personalized approach.

"So if they could just have a guide, basically someone they knew who would answer the phone, who would know who they were, certainly know who

Chaney, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, made sure to visit his own tribe during this endeav-

"It was really important to me as a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to make sure we visited the Muscogee Nation to visit about the proposed ideas we had here at Oklahoma State," Chaney said.

The final idea for CSNE grew from a base concept.

"One of the things we're particularly interested in were potential internship opportunities and other sorts of social services types of approaches and then it turned into something much larger than that," Chaney said.

Along with the needs of tribal Nations, Payne said they have also learned how to better meet these needs.

"We have so many mentors in the state," she said. "We have so many best practices to borrow from and it's our objective to share everything we might figure out and also be respectful and wise enough to ask

One of the things we're particularly interested in were potential internship opportunities and other sorts of social services types of approaches and then it turned into something much larger than that."

— OSU Center for Native American Studies Director John Chaney

their students were and someone who could connect them with all the great resources available on campus," Payne said.

OSU Center for Native American Studies Director John Chaney explained that CSNE came about after he was appointed to his current posi-

"Part of that mission was to try and understand what educational, research and service needs were of the tribes around the state," Chaney said. "So Elizabeth Payne and I embarked on a statewide interview assessment of what the research, education and service needs and partnership potentials were."

questions."

The students themselves have a pivotal role.

"The employees that work at the center are student leaders and really, they are more than just task doers, they clearly have a vision and a mission that they participate in developing the strategies as well as executing them," Payne said.

She pointed out how this is in line with their purpose.

"Quite frankly, that is sovereignty and leadership and I am very encouraged about our collective futures when I think that young people like these will be leading us," Payne said.

For more information, visit: https://sovnationcenter.okstate.edu.

Oklahoma State University Center for Sovereign Nations mission: ensure that sovereignty of American Indian Nations is respected and recognized in the creation and implementation of initiatives, increase the number of Native graduates as well as the number and quality of partnerships between OSU and tribal

Workshop series targets small businesses



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Small Business Development Center Manager John Blue spoke at an entrepreneur workshop Sept. 10, at the Wes Watkins Technology Center in Wetumka, Okla.

Attendees learn about basics, resources

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

WETUMKA, Okla. — Have you ever thought about starting your own business? The Wes Watkins Technology Center is offering a series of workshops targeting people interested in entrepreneurism.

The first class covered the basics of start-up such as business feasibility, business plans and taxes. The class also educated entrepreneurs about the resources available to them.

Wes Watkins Center Agricultural Business Coordinator Kelli Ogle reached out to

the Small Business Association and REI Oklahoma to create the series.

REI was started over 30 years ago in Durant by Wes Watkins to encourage economic development in that area and has grown to have offices in Tulsa and Oklahoma City with different subsidiaries including the REI Women's Business Center and Native American Business

"All of our services are geared toward encouraging economic development in Oklahoma," WBC Coordinator Christina L. Culver said.

Culver spoke about what she called the reality of owning a business.

According to research conducted this year by the national Small Business Development Center, 'Entrepreneur Weekly' and others, 25 percent of businesses fail in the first year, 36 in the second and 44 percent in the third year.

Some of the reasons cited for

this were inadequate planning, lack of management experience and business spending.

First United Bank Vice-President and independent tax preparer Julie Stovall spoke about taxes and business structure.

"The business structure determines the tax forms that you will file, determines the monthly paperwork recorded and retained and also determines the how the tax liability of the business flows," Stovall said.

The structures discussed were sole proprietorship, partnership and limited liability companies, branching off into four different

without any plan."

styles of LLC. These styles deter-

mine the way business taxes are

common questions Stovall re-

ceives are about deductions.

Any business expense that is

'ordinary and necessary' may be

For more information about

The last item discussed was

"It is too easy to get into those

little small businesses without

any plan," Muscogee (Creek)

Nation Small Business Develop-

ment Center Manager John Blue

Blue said there are four parts

to a business plan: executive

summary, marketing plan, man-

agement and financial projec-

Blue explained that the execu-

tive summary is an overview of

the business plan and used to

convince financers to read the

The marketing plan is a plan

taxes, visit: www.irs.gov.

business plans.

As a tax preparer, the most

— MCN Small Business Development Center Manager

John Blue

paid.

deducted.

said.

to reach customers based upon location, competition and demographics. One resource to assist in marketing plan is Research Wizard available through the Tulsa City-County Library or by a yearly membership.

For more information about Research Wizard, visit: www.researchwizard.org.

The next section of a business plan is management, which lists experience relevant to managing the business or who will be placed in charge of leading it.

The final section is financial projections, which is essentially estimating how much the busi-

ness will make in Technology It is too easy to get into those little small businesses the future. Blue suggested being conservative with the estimates.

> Also, Blue recommended including

use of funds in the business plan, if applying for a loan.

For more information about the MCN SBDC, call: 918-732-7895.

The next workshop in the series set for Oct. 13, is marketing, customer service and digital marketing in November followed by financing and funding options scheduled for December.

For more information about the workshops or for free business resources, visit: www. reiwbc.org or call Culver at: 918-994-2823.

According to research conducted this year by the national Small **Business Development** Center, **Entrepreneur** Weekly' and others, 25 percent of businesses fail in the first year, 36 in the second and 44 percent in the third year.

Nations.

MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND

arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

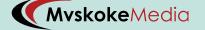
CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov



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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN

DOE conducts training with MCN officials

Group analyzes ways to save money, preserve environment

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — President Barack Obama made his way to Alaska in August on a mission to discuss climate change and his environmental agenda while also reaching out to the indigenous communities.

Back in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction, tribal officials met Aug. 25-26 with U.S. Department of Energy representatives to discuss ways MCN could do their part to be good stewards of the environment while saving money.

DOE representatives conducted training exercises to help MCN stakeholders in the effort, plan potential goals and projects the Nation would like to take on.

The MCN entities were: Trade and Commerce, Environmental Services, Housing, Health, Gaming and Interior Affairs.

Work groups analyzed cost breakdowns, program involvement, the equipment and technology needed as well as the needs of the Nation and feasibility of proposed projects.

One project discussed the formation of the MCN Department of Energy and Tribal Utility Authority in order to dedicate a team to the endeavor.

MCN Environmental Specialist James Williams said having a utility authority would assist the Nation in analyzing utility bills and negotiating prices for utilities

MCN performed an energy ef-

ficiency and conservation study in 2010 where an energy audit was conducted of 33 buildings the tribe owned and used.

"That was enough for us to realize that we had some issues concerning electric pricing, electric usage," Williams said.

MCN pays six to eight different companies for electric service, with billing ranging from \$0.06-0.14 per kilowatt-hour.

Williams estimated that in one year, the tribe, including gaming and health facilities, spends \$50 million on utilities to keep the lights on, water running and phones ringing.

MCN is considered a key account customer to utility companies due to its large employee and structure base.

Having this power could assist MCN in negotiating rates and in turn, save the tribe money.

"We're trying to reduce 20 by 20. Twenty percent by 2020," Williams said.

If the \$50 million utility bill were to be lowered by 20 percent, Williams estimated that \$10 million could be used for other tribal programs or services.

The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations formed tribal utility authorities and have seen savings.

Williams said that the Choctaw Nation saved \$1 million the first year and projects to save \$2.5 million this year.

The utility authority would also be responsible for analyzing utility bills and recommending departmental changes to promote savings in each subsidiary under the MCN umbrella.

The training also discussed

transitioning tribal vehicles to Compressed Natural Gas compatibility.

When MCN looks to purchase tribal vehicles, the Nation could buy CNG vehicles in phases to replace gasoline vehicles.

One cause of hesitation to making changes is the upfront cost associated with financing long-term savings measures like the conversion to CNG vehicles and LED light bulbs.

Williams emphasized that the Nation would not need to make all purchases upfront and could slowly integrate.

He also said Native Americans are the original environmentalists and stewards of the land.

"It's not only just for saving money but actually it's doing the right thing," Williams said.

The change would not just be in the items procured by MCN, but also a change in behavior for employees and citizens.

"Any time you have change, it's a challenge," Williams said. "I think that through education, we can do it."

The MCN Mound Building made the change from fluorescent to LED light bulbs earlier this year.

MCN is a in the process of creating a CNG station.

MCN Environmental Services also offers recycling services to MCN departments, citizens and the community.

"It's like a baseball field and we're sitting on the front row but we got to get in the game," Williams said. "Believe me, we're at the game. We just need to get on the field and start knocking it out of the park."



Darren DeLaune/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program hosted the second annual 'Swing for Education' Benefit Golf Tournament Sept. 4 at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah, Okla.

Golf tournament held to raise money for scholarships

Second annual benefit hosted in Checotah

Darren DeLaune/Reporter

CHECOTAH, Okla. — Over 100 golfers signed up for the second annual 'Swing for Education' Benefit Golf Tournament hosted Sept. 4 by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Checotah.

"We want to tell everyone about our program and what we are doing," HESFP Director Dr. Pete Coser said. "Our overall goal is to get the funds for these scholarships."

Coser said over 25 teams participated.

For the event, various organizations both within and outside MCN sponsored different holes throughout the course.

"Everyone here loves golf," Coser said. "So why not give them something they love and also benefits our tribe too?"

Coser was proud of the MCN employees who volunteered their time to help.

"It goes to show the support our employees have of this tournament," Coser said. "They want to see our program succeed and this is one of the ways that they are doing it."

Coser was worried that the weather would not cooperate at first but this was quickly alleviated.

"Today was a good day," Coser said. "A little warm for me but a good day."

Fountainhead Creek Golf Course is located near Lake Eufaula and is an 18-hole, par 72 course.

For more information about MCN HESFP, call: 918-732-7754.

REMEMBER

Continued from page 1

Vegetables – **NAK LOKCE**

Myskoke Language Preservation Program

TVFVMPE - Onions
HOMV-LANE - Green Peppers
TOMATV - Tomatoes
PVTO - Mushrooms
LANE-PAPKV - Lettuce
VHVCEREHE - Potatoes
CUFE ENHOMPETV - Carrots
CVSE - Pumpkin

TVLAK PAKKUCE - Green Peas
TVLAKO - Beans
YVLONKV CATUCE - Radishes
SETAPHO - Cabbage
VCE - Corn
KAKOMPV - Cucumber
TAFVMPE VHAKE - Garlic

CVSE - Pumpkin K Ε S 0 A С Ε Κ Α С M Ε SP Ν С Ε Ν C 0 0 0 Н H 0 C 0 K A Æ, CV E C R 0 0 Р C 0 Ε N K C AAPOK TSPVVVH VKCVSEHVLM P E P O U M M P K E M P H A E V O A V H L V V U V T P A V tendees on suicide prevention and remember those lost to suicide.

"We hope participation in the National Suicide Prevention Week activities will bring awareness to how vital mental health is and encourage everyone to take care of both their mental and physical health," MCNDH Tribal Suicide Prevention Grant Program Coordinator Miranda Carman said.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2013, that 521 Native Americans took their own lives.

Of those individuals, 64 lived in Oklahoma.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger read his proclamation declaring Sept. 6-12 as Suicide Prevention Week.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Oklahoma Executive Director Traci Cook took attendees on the journey of how she became diagnosed with severe anxiety disorder and clinical depression.

She described her family's struggle with mental illness and their reluctance to recognize and talk about the issue.

"It was a real tough time for me. I didn't have a lot of support," Cook said.

She was able to find support through NAMI and learn about her condition.

Cook said that one in four adults in Oklahoma have a diagnosed mental illness.

"I think it's time we start talking about mental illness just like heart disease, just like diabetes, just like any other health condition," she said. Cook connected the hesitation to discuss mental illness issues with the stigma of discussing suicide.

She described her emotions from losing one of her friends to suicide.

"I don't know why. I don't know what happened," Cook said. "But it was preventable and I wish I would have known because I would've said something."

According to the CDC, suicide was the second leading cause of death in 2013 for Native Americans ages 10-34.

"We have to talk about it because that's what changes things. It's time to talk about it," she said.

The event also included behavioral health updates, a self-care exercise and the Hope Walk.

MCNDH Behavioral Health representatives led a parade of individuals through the streets of the MCN Tribal Complex to the walking track for the Hope Walk.

Attendees meandered along the trail lined with yellow fans, reading statistics of suicide occurrences.

To conclude the event, MCNDH Clinician Robin Hudson LeBlanc led the remembrance ceremony, releasing butterflies in remembrance of those lost to suicide.

If you, or someone you know has suicidal thoughts, call the National Suicide Hotline at: 1-800-273-TALK (8255). You can also text 'Hi,' to the Crisis Text Line at: 741741 and speak to a trained listener that can help you.

'Return From Exile' exhibition celebrates Southeastern Native art



Suhmission

'Mekusape Fullvnna' (Muscogee Gravehouse), by Native artists Tony Tiger (left) and Bob Martin, is the inaugural piece that helped launch the 'Return From Exile' art exhibition, which is co-curated by the two artists along with Jace Weaver.

Project launched in, near original tribal territories

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Conception of the 'Return From Exile' art exhibition began with one piece, cocreated by Native artists Tony Tiger and Bob Martin and found its roots while Martin was delivering another.

Martin was on his way to Athens, Ga., to drop off a painting and Tiger asked him to search for a place to exhibit the work titled, 'Mekusape Fullvnna' (Muscogee Gravehouse), a multi-media sculpture resembling structures used in burial practices by several Southeastern tribes, including the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"And he comes back and says, 'Hey, I got a space but it's huge, but it's beautiful,' and it was the Lyndon House Arts Center in Athens, Georgia," Tiger said. "So that's where the show will open."

Typically, Tiger and Martin worked with two or three other artists they found reliable but decided to bring on others who were beginners, which began a snowball effect.

The exhibit, which took two years to launch, now features 32 Southeastern style Native artists, whose work is scheduled for display in six venues over two years, beginning in the original region of the Five Civilized Tribes and ending where the Trail of Tears did, in Oklahoma.

"We thought it was very fitting to be there," Tiger said. "The Oconee River was a natural boundary between the Creeks and the Cherokee and a lot of the removal was kind of based in that area."

He said there are possibly two slots open for other venues and explained what they hope to accomplish with this ambitious endeavor.

"It's been almost 200 years since we've been removed from our ancestral homelands and if you've gone back to the East and done any traveling as a Native person, there are still a lot of questions about who Native people are," Tiger said.

The exhibit is scheduled for three locations in Oklahoma: the Hardesty Art Center in Tulsa, Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah and Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur.

"We wanted to make sure

the art travels to venues where non-Natives see it but also where Natives see it because we wanted to encourage and inspire young Native people who have an interest in the arts," Tiger said.

He hopes this will be accomplished through the featured artists' contemporary styles and he explained that they are in a good position to teach through their work.

"Most every artist has some college education so they've studied art at a different level than just self-taught," Tiger said. "So they really understand what art is and what it can be."

One of these artists is Muscogee (Creek) citizen Randi Narcomey-Watson, who crafted a traditional dress out of plastic bags, commenting on the relationship between modern consumer culture and traditional Indigenous values.

"We were supposed to blend in with our society," she said. "We were supposed to buy things at the mall and be consumed in society but we aren't; we're still here."

The dress also features a health and environmental message, incorporating bread packaging in the apron and showing the recycle symbols on many of the bags.

"Consuming flour has caused Native people to have diabetes, because traditionally that's not what our bodies consumed," Narcomey-Watson said.

Also, the MCN Cultural Center and Archives are set to make a donation.

"I just want to thank all the different tribes and organizations who helped us achieve all that we will achieve with this exhibition," Tiger said.

Tiger, Martin and Jace Weaver, Director of the Institute of Native American Studies, Franklin Professor of NAS at the University of Georgia, are independently curating 'Return From Exile' for free.

"It has been a challenge to get this project on the road but it's been amazing too; that being a person of faith, that every day we kind of think about what we're doing; we give the Almighty credit and ask for his help and it all falls into place," Tiger said.

For more information about the exhibit, which opened Sept. 10 and will be accompanied by events, visit the Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/returnfromexileexhibition.

The exhibit is scheduled for three locations in Oklahoma: the Hardesty Art Center in Tulsa, Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah and Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur.



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation

WETUMKA HEAD START

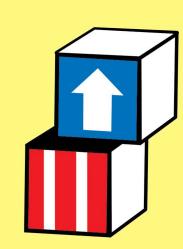
is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year.

Requirements for the program will include:

- ► Child turning 3 or 4 year olds before September 1st
- ► Income Verification (last year's income tax, pay stubs, W-2 form, TANF letter, SSI letter, or statement from employer)
- ► Citizenship or CDIB card (if applicable)
- ► Birth Certificate
- ► Immunization Record
- ► Child's medical card

If you need additional information, call Janice Birdcreek at (405) 452-1180 or stop by the Wetumka Head Start at 333 South Washita, Wetumka Oklahoma.

We also have other Head Start Centers at Okmulgee (918) 758-1430, Checotah (918) 473-0605, Tulsa (918) 296-0357, Okemah (918) 623-2000, and Eufaula (918) 618-6220.







Hot Seat Blitz Drawings

Ten (10) - \$10 Free Play drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes beginning at NOON and ending at 5:00PM.

Halloween Costume Contest

5:00PM

1st Place - \$1,000

2nd Place - \$750

3rd Place - \$500

4th Place - \$250

5th Place - \$100

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Softball team continues playing in memory of founding member

SWAT/Jeri's Crew share legacy with others

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The late Jeri Culley, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen, was an avid athlete. Among the sports she excelled at were basketball and softball. After her athletic career, she became a mom who wanted to share her love for sports with her children.

She continued playing softball and basketball when she could. Around 2012, Jeri, her sister Talia Culley King and a few other friends began

a softball team called SWAT. on that of the awareness ribbon "Jeri made that team because light blue. she loved "The softball and the we had

some friends that wanted to keep playing," Culley King said. "So that is when SWAT began."

SWAT was not about winning, it was about a team of women getting together and sharing their passion for the game.

In late 2012, Jeri was with diagnosed gastric carcinoma, or stage fourstomach cancer. With the diagnosis, many things in her life were brought to a halt, especially playing sports.

"When we got the news of when Jeri was diagnosed, we weren't for sure if we were going to play," Culley King thing on our minds."

Jeri told her sister and friends that if they wanted to play, they needed to, whether or not she was on the field.

" 'If that is what you are wanting to do, play,' "Culley King said.

Culley King and a few of the other girls from the original team got together and wanted to rename the team to show support for Jeri.

Initially, Culley King was apprehensive about it.

"As soon as I asked Jeri said, 'Of course, that is my team. You need to name it after me,'

"laughed Culley King. "So we got her blessing and that is our team name."

That is when the team name changed from SWAT to Jeri's Crew.

Culley King and the other original members made sure that all new teammates understood who they were representing when they put on their jersey.

"We were called Jeri's Crew for a reason," Culley King said. "It was because she was fighting for her life against cancer and we had to show support for my sister, our teammate."

Their jersey color was based

for stomach cancer, girls on team knew what it meant when they

> for us; they were playing for Jeri," Culley King said.

played

In October 2013, Jeri succumbed to cancer but left a legacy for the women who represent her on this team.

"She was always there for us," player Dala Franks said. "I still believe that she is out there with us when we take the field."

daughter, Kaelyn Jeri's Roberts joined and when Culley King watches her, she sees Jeri playing again.

"They do not play the same positions but Kaelyn bats said. "Playing was the last just like her mom and does everything out there exactly like her," Culley King said. "If you glance her way, for that split second, you are seeing

Jeri's Crew believes that playing is not about winning. They want to show everyone how special Jeri was and support for anyone dealing with cancer.

"If people ask about the name of our team and want to know why it is named that, we know we succeeded," Culley King said. "We get to talk about her life and play a game that she truly loved."

September recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Citizen brings awareness through his life

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — September is recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

The purpose of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is to put a spotlight on the types of cancer that largely affect children specifically, survivorship issues and to help raise funds for research and family support.

According to the American Childhood Cancer Organization website, in the U.S., 15,780 children under the age of 21 are diagnosed with cancer every year; approximately one-quarter of them will not survive the dis-

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Charlie Keith was first featured by the 'Muscogee Nation News' in April 2014 when he rang the 'No More Chemo Bell' at the University of Oklahoma Children's Oncology Clinic in Oklahoma City to celebrate the completion of his chemotherapy.

He is the son of Jordan and Jeremy Keith of Oklahoma City.

Charlie was diagnosed with Stage IV Neuroblastoma when he was three-years-old.

"It turns into the flight or fight response and you just fight. You just wake up and do what you got to do," Jordan said in an earlier interview.

After years of fighting cancer, Charlie was pronounced NED, which meant he had no evidence of disease.

He started pre-kindergarten at Dewar Elementary School and got to experience life outside of hospitals, something Jordan described as an accomplishment.

Charlie actually got to be a kid for some time and did things he loved like being a cowboy, supporting his Sooners and playing outside with other children as well as enjoying his toy dinosaurs and superheroes.

He relapsed in October 2014, which led to more tests, scans and chemotherapy.

For almost another year, Charlie fought for his life.

Charlie James Keith born June

20, 2008, passed away at age seven in the arms of his mother and father Sept. 7, 2015.

"Charlie didn't succumb to the actual disease, Stage IV Neuroblastoma. He died because of the lack of funding pediatric cancer receives from the federal government," Jordan said.

According to The Truth 365 website, over 13,500 kids will be diagnosed with cancer in the next 365 days.

Though these numbers are significant, the potential market is too small to attract the attention of private industry for treatment research.

This makes the role of the taxpayer-funded National Cancer Institute (NCI) especially critical. Approximately four percent of the annual NCI budget is dedicated to childhood cancer.

"Jeremy and I firmly believe that if more than four percent was spent on childhood cancer research, our son would still be with us today," Jordan said.

Charlie will always be remembered by family and friends as a superhero.

Citizen sisters bring hope to reservations



Muscogee (Creek) sisters Samantha (left) and Maranda (right) Coon from Mason traveled over 5,000 miles from July 5 - Aug. 5 to speak to youth at 11 different Native reservations

Citizens participate in mission trip

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) sisters Samantha and Maranda Coon from Mason set off on a journey this summer to speak with youth from different Native reservations.

"We're part of an organization, its called 'On Eagles Wings.' We represent over 20 different tribes across the United States and Canada," Samantha said.

According to the Hutchcraft website, On Eagles Wings is the Native American outreach of Ron Hutchcraft ministries that

Carports

Zero Turn Mowers

UTVs

is a leading youth ministry to the Indigenous young people.

The OEW mission is hope and is a movement of Native American young people bringing hope to their communities through Jesus Christ.

Which is why their trip was titled, 'Summer of Hope.'

The sisters first heard about the tour when they attended the 'Warrior Leadership Summit' discipleship conference.

Samantha knew she wanted to go but her little sister Maranda was a little more hesitant.

"I really wanted to back out of it at the last minute," Maranda said. "I wanted to go home, I didn't think I could do it at all."

With encouragement from her older sister, Maranda decided to go.

Sixty-one team members were chosen to go on the tour and 15 of those were from Oklahoma.

Out of the 15 Oklahomans, 12 were Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

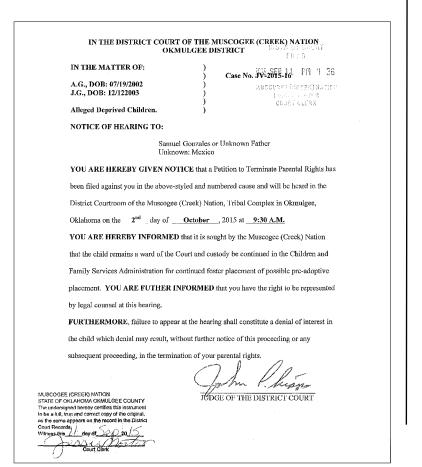
The Coon sister's started their journey July 5, which took them over 5,000 miles across the Central Plains and then onto the Northwest.

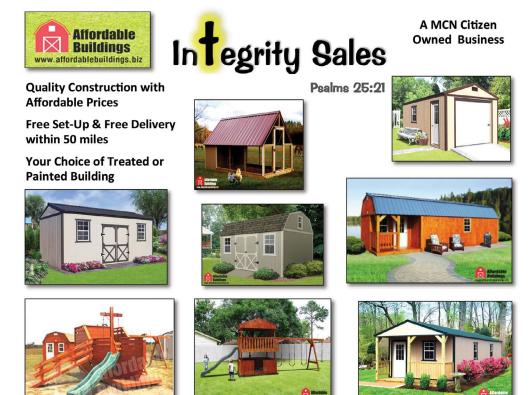
They visited 11 reservations before the program came to a close Aug. 5 in Washington State. The sisters shared what it was like to share this journey.

"Being on the team with her was a good experience for me but I know it was really good for her because we're close as it is," Samantha said. "But just being able to see her work along side, not just myself but also with other team members; seeing her step out of her comfort zone."

Maranda shared her thoughts. "I felt like we got even closer," Maranda said. "I just gained a lot of knowledge and experience going on the trip. You meet a whole lot of different people."

Samantha moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., to attend Indian Bible College and Maranda started her first year at Seminole State College in Seminole where she plans to major in criminal justice.





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McPeak looks at state budget and tribal issues

MCN tax commissioner, outgoing OK rep. shares opinions

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The State of Oklahoma budget is coming up short, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commission is doing great business and its business as usual for the new Indian liaison in the state governor's office.

That's according to MCN Tax Commissioner and outgoing Oklahoma State Rep. Jerry Mc-Peak.

The outspoken McPeak was on his way to the state capitol Sept. 2 and took some time to talk with 'Mvskoke Radio' host Gary Fife about a variety of subjects during a quick interview.

MCN Tax Commission

MR: First of all, how is the tribal tax commission doing?

JM: We're having a record year this year. The ladies have done a great job and are very, very efficient. We've done some efficiency studies of and compared our tag agency to other tag agencies. Our costs compared to the dollars we take in, are extremely small compared to other tag agencies.

I catch a lot of static though, 'cause my wife is a full blood Cherokee and I don't live in Creek Nation. I have a Cherokee tag. Man, when I drive into the Creek complex, I catch a lot of stuff and you can spell stuff anyway you want to.

MR: You know, I worked for the Cherokee Nation for a while and I used to drive into their lot with a Creek tag. Boy, does that sound familiar.

For those folks who aren't really involved with tribal politics and revenues and those sorts of things, what happens to the bucks that you make there?

JM: Well, that's why our deal is so important. All of our money goes into the general fund. It's not earmarked for anything. So, the Council and the tribe can use that money anyway they

That's also one of the reasons, and I'm going into an area that I really shouldn't walk into, 'cause it's like walking to quicksand and I shouldn't bring it up myself. I should let you bring it up. They talk about tribal tags and tags outside the jurisdiction. We're very aware of that and one of the first tribes that ever talked

The Cherokee compact is very good. Beyond that, it's costing some of the tribes millions of dollars to do that because the way the state has written the compacts. It's a situation that would cost us hundreds of thousands, probably over a million dollars to do things that they want to do.

MCN - Oklahoma relations

MR: It's always been my impression that the State of Oklahoma has been pretty, or grudgingly, recognizing our sovereign status, kind of dragging its feet on dealing with us in too many

That's been true of Oklahoma politics for a long time. Now, that's just my impression, is that something that you would agree

JM: Oh, I absolutely agree. I was amazed when I went up there. I was raised a lot in Mc-Intosh County and if you talked about a minority, it would have been a full-blood white guy, because we were all Indian or part-Indian and I mean that seriously.

So, it was amazing to get to the state capitol and find out that the majority of the legislators who had really no comprehension about the Indians of Oklahoma. We make jokes about the folks from the east or the city folks, but it was horrible about the lack of understanding that they had.

You were talking about the funding a while ago, that compact that these other tribes do, the state has negotiated where they have told those tribes how they'll spend that money. There's like 70 percent of that money that is earmarked, so you asked me about the money that we get—the money we get can be spent any way we want to.

Sure, we're going to spend it for healthcare, for roads, probably and we're going to spend it helping kids. But, there's no certain amount set. Those compacts set the amount that that tribe must spend on those things specifically. You talk about giving up a little bit of sovereignty, giving up a little bit of your rights—that bothers me quite a bit.

MR: While we're looking at the state, I understand that Oklahoma is pulling up in last place, so to speak on its budget, a massive shortfall that we hear about and I'm always curious how that's going to trickle down to us here at Creek Nation.

JM: Unfortunately, political spin is something that I had to get used to and learn to read. I used to tell my students, along with my animal science group— I have a degree in animal psychology—that should be scary but I tell my students don't just read what's on the line; read what's in between the lines, what else is in there.

What else is in there, when they talk about a balanced budget here in Oklahoma, we don't have one. That is absolutely political spin.

We had \$600-something million we took away from onetime places. In other words, we borrowed or we stole it from little corners of the world this last year so we could have a quote, 'balanced budget.' If I take money out of my savings account or if I have to borrow money to balance my budget, that's not a balanced budget. So, we don't have a balanced budget in Oklahoma. That's just political spin.

The state treasurer, Ken Miller, does a great job and he tries to tell them sometimes, 'Here's the situation, we're \$600 million or \$680 million now, to the negative side before we start trying to do a budget for next year.'

That's extraordinarily concerning, particularly that this came—we got into that situation when oil prices were high, we had one of the five best economies in the United States. Well, they tried to tell the people that it's oil prices.

What it was, it was poor management. It's poor planning on our part. Doing what? We're giving back tax rebates. It isn't the poor people. It isn't the DHS. It isn't the food stamps. It isn't those things that's costing us. It's the millions and millions of dollars that we're giving for tax credits, tax rebates to very wealthy companies.

We're giving a rebate for the oil companies to do horizontal drilling. That's the only kind of drilling they do. So, why do we give them an incentive, when that's the only kind of drilling they're going to do?

MR: We've seen a new name, a new person take over the liaison for Native American affairs for

the governor, Chris Benge and we've actually spoken with him. He handled himself quite well in the interview. I always ask, 'Let's see what you've done.' One thing that kind of troubles me is that he said, 'We may have to actually hire another staff person to handle these details.'

To me, that read, 'Well, we're going to hire another guy to do the actual work.

Is this more of the same and are we another step lower, further from the governor's ear? What do you think?

JM: First, the leading part of what you said is absolutely accurate. I would challenge anyone who doesn't like Chris Benge. Chris Benge is just a likeable guy. They made him the legislative liaison. I actually had some input when I told them, 'That's probably not going to be a real good idea, guys.' I don't know any of the tribes that dislike Chris Benge. At the same time, pretty much neutered.

I tell people this: 'The governor signs his paycheck. Who do you think he works for? You think he works for the Indians? You think he's going to go out and lobby for us?' So, I'd like to go back to the commission (Indian Affairs Commission) that we used to have.

I'd love to have a truly cabinet position that really was someone who sat in for the Indians. That's what they sold to the legislature. The disappointment I had was this, people in the Native American caucus who call themselves Indians and want so much to be part of the Native American caucus, voted for that deal. Myself and Chuck Hoskins, who is with the Cherokee tribe, fought hard but lost. ...

The Museum

MR: Is the museum deal done? I know it's been moved to Oklahoma City. The legislature finally worked out something there. We're looking at OKC taking it over, so to speak?

JM: In my opinion what the state did was wash their hands

Disappointingly, when I arrived there, people would not vote to fund that and even, this last meeting we had, I had to explain to folks in that committee meeting, this is not for the Indians, this is about the Indians.

The people there kept trying to make it for us. It wasn't for us; it was for the state. We would not have reaped nearly as much benefit from it as the entire state, the tourism dollars and those kind of things. They kept trying to make this an 'anti-Indian' thing and that just wore me out. ...

Outgoing thoughts

MR: You're looking at your last go-around as a state legislator. What do you think? I asked earlier, 'You going to go out with a bang' or are there things that you would like to do but don't think are possible? Where do you go from here?

JM: You know, not thinking something is possible has never been a problem with me, but I will tell you that I feel pretty battle-scarred, as you know and one reason you invite me is that I tell you what I think and what I believe to be straight. I don't run any bills. I may have had three bills signed in my time there. I've spent all my time fighting bad stuff, fighting stuff like testing our kids.

I won't change any or it won't change what I do or the way I do them. ...



Pictured are spirit or grave houses used in some traditional Mvskoke

An examination of traditional Mvskoke funerary practices

Cultural Center, ethnology consulted

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. -Cultures around the world have different ways of caring for a departed loved one.

For Muscogee (Creek) people, customs vary from town to town and family to family. However, what is considered a traditional Myskoke burial is comprised of several actions. Some or all maybe utilized.

One tradition is waiting for burial until the fourth day after a passing.

This comes from the belief that the spirit of the departed stays on Earth for four days to prepare for the journey to Poyvfekcv en Nene (Spirit Road) or the Milky Way.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives Interim Director Justin Giles said he understood the fourday waiting period to be a time when the soul visits the people and places relevant in their life.

In the 'The Forty-Second Annual Report of the Bureau American Ethnology,' author John Swanton reported the Alabama people believed the Spirit Road had many dangers.

The account stated the spirit first encountered a body of water, but split on the left and the right of it. The next place had many 'great serpents' and to pass through the spirit "...wrapped baksha branches about their bodies so that the fangs of the reptiles could not reach them.'

Finally, the spirit reached a battle and to escape it he or she, '...blew out tobacco smoke which rendered them invisible.'

Giles could not confirm or deny this account.

During this four-day period, the body of the deceased is not left alone. With the influence of Christianity, often times Mvskoke hymns are sung and church services held at the home of the deceased, a church or the funeral home chapel.

"A lot of those songs that are sung are, not only for the people there because those are comforting songs, and they have that message of, 'There is another life. There is an afterlife. There is a place where we go," Giles said. "It is to comfort that spirit that is still there."

A number of customs occur on the actual day of the funeral. One of these observances is the burial of a blanket or quilt with the deceased, which started on the Trail of Tears.

"We weren't necessarily able to stop and do the full-on grieving and the whole process we were prone to do," Giles said. "The most they had to do

was put a blanket over them."

Personal items of the deceased may be buried with them, although this practice is not uniquely Mvskoke. One practice that is seemly more Mvskoke is the inclusion of food or tobacco in the casket.

The funeral service is not considered finished until the casket is in the ground and covered with dirt.

This includes digging the grave by hand and a farewell handshake for the deceased. The handshake consists of each attendee getting a handful of dirt to sprinkle on the casket and men taking turns with shovels to fill in the hole.

After leaving the cemetery, sometimes the family or other funeral attendees will wash with herbs to cleanse themselves.

A last practice that is not as prominent as it once was, is building spirit or grave houses. These are little buildings that resemble houses and are placed over burial plots.

It is hard to know when and where spirit houses originated, but Giles pulled from oral tradition paired with archeological evidence to speculate that it could have been a natural progression from the Mississippian Era.

"The elite were being buried in an elaborate way," Giles said. "They had the divine providence as being a mekko (roughly, king) or being that leader of the etvlwv (town)."

At the Etowah site in northern Georgia, archeologists excavated the burial mound. Giles described one of the individual burials found within the mound.

"There is one where they had shells that were all laid down, had a nice big feather cape and all these sort of things, but still in a somewhat fetal position and for the most part, naked," Giles said.

Everyday citizens were buried in or near their homes. Swanton reported Jackson Lewis informant confirmed in Alabama that burial inside the home was

"The grave was dug in one corner flush with the wall, for there were no floors...they raised a little house over it, two-and-a-half to three feet high," Swanton wrote.

Lewis went on to say that traditional Mvskoke medicine was placed on the little house to protect living inhabitants.

After Removal from the Southeast, burial plots moved out of homes.

When taking all these activities into consideration, death is considered a transition from this world to the next. Even within the Mvskoke language itself, there is no word for good-bye, only hvtvm cehecares or, 'I will see you again.'

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

EMVPANAYV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



OK to go after the foundation bucks. There was the usual backand-forth on whether taking the money was a good idea, but in the end it was a no-go. Yea!

CBC News reported mid-August that a footrace in Harrodsburg, Ky., would have included a band of 'Native American' reenactors chasing runners to the finish line. This would have been the second year in a row that the 5k runners would experience the 'Indian attack.'

Kentucky's 'Courier-Journal' newspaper reported the local chamber of commerce heard enough uproar over the idea that it was scrapped. A comment on the festival's Facebook page said, "That anyone in a position of institutional authority could ever possibly have considered this to be a good idea simply defies comprehension."

Amen.

President Barack Obama has renamed the highest mountain in America and Alaska, back to its original and Athabascan name, Denali (meaning: The Great One). Ohio politicians have defended the former Mt. McKinley name for a century and they are not happy about the 'snub' as they called it.

President William McKinley never set foot in Alaska yet got this mountain named after him and I'd say that was some kind of huge snub to begin with for the Native people who lived there. Who said anyone could rename it 'McKinley' in the first place?

This is a good move in reclaiming Native lands and I'd love to see the day when we can call this continent by its original name: 'Ours.'

One, if not THE only (so far), comment about Native Americans in this national election

scrap has been made by presidential-hopeful U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky.

According to 'Indian Country Today,' it was on a radio talk show in early September that Paul said Native Americans, "don't do very well because there's been a lack of assimilation"

He continued, "I think assimilation is an amazing thing. A good example of how even in our country, assimilation didn't happen and it's been a disaster for the people has been the Native American population on the reservations.

"Um, if they were assimilated, within a decade they'd probably be doing as well as the rest of us, but instead, um, seclusion and isolating them —we took their land, and then put them on small.....of land, but they don't do very well..."

Paul also called for removing the funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and major cuts to the Indian Health Service.

Well, it seems our people have survived past assimilation policies and attempts to make us dark skinned white folks. And... I'd say many of us actually have done quite well as part of the U.S. population AND while remaining true to our heritage. Better catch up on your reading about us Rand.

Speaking of elections, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election is here and I'm hoping you did your duty.

On the lighter side, a quote from Will Rogers: "Political elections are a good deal like marriages, there's no accounting for anyone's taste."

Hvtvm Cehecares—I will see you again.

OVERSIGHT

Continued from page 1

with the timing of the bill.

"The election has already started. The absentee voter registration was cut off. The absentee ballots have already gone out.

"If we were truly going to monitor the election, it should have been a forethought and not an afterthought. When the Carter Center comes into your elections, they study your election law; they have months of preparation and they study all of those things," Barnett said.

She stated that investigative support was lacking in the center's services.

"If you're actually going to tamper with an election, you would need forensic services to figure out how the election process was tampered with and

how it was weak," Barnett said.

Barnett voiced concerns regarding forfeiture of MCN sovereignty stating that candidates have the option to have a watcher in every precinct and that if needed, reform should happen internally.

According to the release, Tiger had 10 days to sign the resolution or return it to the Council but he did not plan on signing it.

Council Legislative Clerk April Lindsey said the bill would become law if Tiger did not sign it.

Yahola said the legislation was sent over after the emergency session and the 10-day period began the following day and ended Sept. 19.

The general election is set for

OCMA ELECTION SET FOR OCT. 6

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an officer election for Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. for: chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

For more information call the OCMA office at: 405-605-2621.

REVIVAL SET FOR OCT. 8-11

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Okmulgee Indian Baptist Church, 1700 W. Eufaula, has set a revival for Oct. 8-10 starting at 7 p.m. and Oct. 11 starting at 2 p.m. with lunch served at 12 p.m.

For more information including a list of speakers call Fred Lowe at: 918-843-2265 or Johnnie at: 918-232-2269.

CHURCH PLANT TO BEGIN AT TCIC OCT. 11

TULSA, Okla. — Services and functions for the Inter-Tribal Southern Baptist Church are set to begin Oct. 11 at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community center. Sunday school is scheduled for 10 a.m., Sundays with services at 11 a.m. and prayer and Bible study are set for Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

For more information call: 918-360-6726.

NEW CITIZENSHIP OFFICE CEREMONY OCT. 15

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board has set a grand opening for their new Jenks location Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the office in the Riverwalk business development.

For more information call: 918-701-2611

MVTO

Thank you all so much for supporting us on our Christian mission trip to Peru with Ioni and Friends International! While we were there, we were able to visit many organizations one being a government orphanage for children with disabilities. We were able to share over 200 feeding tube bibs that we helped sew together and hand deliver to those children who needed them. We shared the gospel with them, laughed with them and played with them. Another place we visited was a school for children with disabilities. There, we had the privilege of giving out Project Christmas Child boxes to each child! In the end we were able to go many places and see many wonderful works of God. You helped make all this possible! Again, thank you so much for all your support and prayers. - Grateful, Jae and Kai Brumme

MOVIES IN THE DOME SET FOR OCT. 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department has scheduled a free showing of 'Monsters Inc.' 6:30 p.m., Oct. 22 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

All are welcome and concessions will be available. For more information call: 918-732-7992.

HARVEST DINNER SET FOR OCT. 24

MORRIS, Okla. — Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church has set a harvest dinner for Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Plates are \$8 per person. For more information call Bernadette Whitlow at: 918-759-7020.

INTER-TRIBAL PRAYER DAY SET FOR NOV. 7

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The second annual Inter-Tribal Prayer Day is set for Nov. 7 at the Sequoyah High School cafeteria in Tahlequah from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. to pray for tribal Nations, chiefs and governments.

For more information call Better Pulver at: 918-282-9381.

Election Board dates

Oct. 15, 5 p.m.

Absentee registration closes for general election. This is not needed if already registered for the primary.

Oct. 19

Absentee ballots are mailed out for the general election.

Oct. 28, 5 p.m.

Precinct registration closes.

Nov. 7

General election

For more information, call the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board at: 918-732-7631, 918-732-7736 or 918-732-7685.

CORRECTION

In the March 15, 2013 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News' a story titled, 'Former stuntwoman creating film production company' penned by former MNN staff member Gerald Wofford contained multiple factual errors and should be discounted in its entirety.

The article has been removed from any online outlet.

The MNN regrets this error.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION WICCOGEE (CREEK) NATION WICCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

HEALTHY FOODS BUILD HAPPY FAMILIES

Locations

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Okmulgee Broken Arrow Coweta Sapulpa Seminole Shawnee

Stroud Tulsa Wetumka

For an appointment please call
918-549-2790 or 1-800-648-2302
You do not have to be Native American
to apply for our program.

Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.





EDWIN MOORE



TULSA, Okla. — Edwin Stanton Moore, Sr., 96, of Muskogee passed from this life Aug. 4, 2015 in Tulsa.

Born Aug. 26, 1918, he was one of 11 sons of William N. and Leona Moore of Morris and grew up on the Half Moon Ranch, south of town. He attended Euchee Boarding School in Sapulpa and graduated in 1936 from Chilocco Indian Agriculture School in Chilocco. He matriculated to Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater and graduated in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. He later returned to OSU and received his master's degree in 1952.

While at OSU, he was active in many sports and earned numerous accolades, including three varsity football letters, All-Missouri Valley Conference football team, conference leader in pass-receiving and Honorable Mention All-American after the 1939 season. He was a life long supporter of OSU and a decades-long football season ticket holder. Ed was also inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

After his college graduation, Ed returned to Chilocco in 1941 as a teacher and coach and began a career that would span nearly 38 years with the Education Division of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior. His profession took him and his family to Arizona and South Dakota before returning to Sequoyah Indian School in Tahlequah. He is fondly remembered and respected by numerous former students and employees for his years of service there as teacher, coach, principal and superintendent. In 1973, he was transferred to the Muskogee Area Office where he was named assistant area director of education. He retired from that position in December 1979. Upon his retirement, he received the Meritorious Service Award from the U.S. secretary of the interior.

He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army. Ed served in the Oklahoma National Guard from 1934-36 with Company C, 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, in Chilocco; and Company K, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division in Okmulgee from 1936-38. While at OSU, he served two years in ROTC.

In 1944, he was drafted into the regular U.S. Army. He was promoted several times and by 1946, had attained the rank of captain. He served from 1944-1946 during which time he spent 15 months in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1946-1978 and retired at the rank of colonel. He was a 1959 graduate of the Command and General Staff School. He was proud that he entered the service as a private and retired a colonel. During his service, he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the Japanese Occupation Medal.

He was a proud Muscogee (Creek) citizen and a lifelong member of Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church. He was a long time member of the Bedouin Shrine Temple and Cherokee Masonic Lodge #10.

He is survived by: children, Edwin S. Moore, Jr. and wife Linda of Jenks, Buddy Moore and wife Berniece of Cushing, David Moore, Sr. and wife Jean of Broken Arrow and Dr. Kelly R. Moore Wilson and husband John of Albuquerque, N.M.; 16 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by: the love of his life and wife of 60 years Sallie Beaver Moore and all of his brothers.

Ed cherished his family and encouraged strong family bonds. He was a devout Christian, who loved and proudly served his country and will be dearly missed by all who knew him. He was husband, Dad, Papa, and to many members of his family, Uncle Ed.

He was buried beside his wife at the Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church cemetery in Morris. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to consider a contribution to Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church.

NANNIE SCOTT



BRISTOW, Okla. - Nannie Scott was born Feb. 11, 1943 in Oklahoma City to the late Columbia Lindsey and Amy (Joseph) Lindsey. She passed from this life in Bristow Sept. 11 at the age of 72 and seven months. Nannie was raised and educated in Wetumka. She has resided in this area for the past 32 years. Nannie enjoyed life as a homemaker and in raising two sons. She lost her husband Benny Scott in December 2004. Nannie Scott was a unique lady and made many lifelong friends with those who were fortunate enough to get to know her.

In addition to her husband and parents she was preceded in death by: grandson, Jeremy Scott; brothers, Lewis Lindsey and Thomas Linsey and sisters Mary Lindsey and Ruby (Lindsey) Stewart.

Her remaining family includes her: sons, Jamie Scott of Bristow and Timothy Scott of Florida; grandchildren, Mason Tyler Scott, Elijah Nolan Scott, Micha Scott, Tayton Scott and Dakota Scott along with numerous other relatives and loving friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made to help out with funeral

Wake services for Nannie M. Scott were held Sept. 16 at Michael's Funeral Home Memorial Chapel in Bristow. Funeral services were held Sept. 17 at True Vine Indian Baptist Church in Bristow with Brother Don Tiger officiating. Immediately following services, interment was held at Sunrise Cemetery in Kellyville. Funeral arrangements and services were entrusted to the care of Michael's Funeral Home of Bristow. Condolences may be made online at: www.michaelsfuneralservices.com.

Citizen uses simplest tool to make great art



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Vincent Loney considers drawing a stress reliever.

Loney views hobby as stress reliever

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — For Muscogee (Creek) citizen Adam Vincent Loney, what began as trying something new, turned into a hobby and eventually, a stress reliever.

Loney chose one of the simplest artistic mediums that requires an everyday tool.

"I do all my drawings with a number two pencil," Loney said. "I am what they call a poor man's artist."

He further explained his preference.

"It is just a mechanical pencil," Loney said. "I use that because it is always sharp."

In 1963, Loney said his brother also did art and showed

something to his mother, which put a bit of a competitive streak

"I was in the third grade when I saw what he did," Loney said. "I wanted to do better than he does in everything so I told myself that I can do better and that is where it began."

Loney, who is a mechanic by trade, has used his drawing as a hobby and an emotional outlet.

"It calms me down," he said. "My heart rate will drop so low that I am almost asleep."

Loney said he is his own worst critic and has done several hundred drawings since he began.

"Out of all of those, I think I may have liked about six of them," he said.

Loney spoke about trying other mediums such as paint, watercolor, chalk and charcoal

but said he always comes back to pencil.

"To me, it gives that rustic look," Loney said. "Other than that, I really couldn't tell you why I just use pencil. I just like

He pointed out an advantage of using a pencil.

"If I mess up, I can erase it and fix it," Loney said.

He said there are times when the eraser will never touch his

"Every place that I put the pencil is the right spot," Loney

Loney said he gets his inspiration from photographs.

"I will look at pictures from books and start drawing," he said. "If it catches my eye, I want to draw it."

Loney has a project he would love to share with his tribe, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

"I would love to draw the pictures of each of our principal chiefs," he said.

He teaches free classes in his hometown, Waynesville, Mo.

"I have some interest in the class," Loney said. "I really enjoy teaching."

Loney said he thinks his art brings a lot of smiles to other people's faces.

"When I get done drawing, my thrill for it is done," Loney said. "I feel I can show my work to other people and hopefully it makes them happy."

Muscogee (Creek) citizen opens gym at new location



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Thomas 'Thunderkick' Longacre oversees students training at new location for his gym, Thunderkick Fitness in the Promenade Mall on 41st and Yale in Tulsa, Okla.

Thunderkick Fitness moves to Promenade Mall

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Thomas 'Thunderkick' Longacre packed his bags and is moving...north. Well not as far as people think. Thunderkick Fitness has moved from Jenks to the Promenade Mall on 41st and Yale in Tulsa, Okla.

"There was a great opportunity for my gym to have a new location," Thomas said. "It was an opportunity that I could not pass

Thomas explained that the mall was looking for something new and different. He also does majority of his shopping around that area so he figured it would be a perk for both himself and the mall.

"I saw a couple of openings there so I contacted the general manager about moving my gym to the mall," Thomas said. "So I pitched to him the idea of having a mixed martial

arts gym inside a mall."

So why a MMA gym in the

"I have never seen anything like that so I figured it would be a good idea to pursue," Thomas

Thomas spoke about the benefits of moving to Tulsa.

"Everyone knows where the Promenade Mall is at," he said. "You can do your shopping for the clothes you need to wear for my class. Get the clothes and

Everyone knows where the Promenade Mall is at.

our gym."

with that," he said. "Very busy time for not only myself but everyone here."

Thomas also had a new title added to the many roles he plays, father. He and his wife, Erin Longacre welcomed a new baby girl to the 'Thunderkick' family on Sept. 9.

"I said I was fighting when I was in the womb," Thomas laughs. "My daughter is already following her mom and dad's footsteps by fighting in

the womb also."

Thomas has You can do your shopping for the clothes you need begun holding to wear for my class. Get the clothes and then head to classes at the new location.

Currently, it is only open to adults and youth will be added

in the future after the grand "We will not forget about the

kids," he said. "Once we get everything settled, we are going to work that into the schedule."

The grand opening at Thunderkick Fitness will be Oct. 24, which is also Thomas' birthday.

For more information on Thunderkick Fitness, email: thunderkickfitness@gmail.

— Thunderkick Fitness owner Thomas 'Thunderkick' Longacre

then head to our gym."

Thomas is going to have a busy couple of months. Not only does he have to get ready for his grand opening. He recently was matchmaker again for the MMA fighting company, Legacy. They held another event Sept. 11 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

"I had a lot of my fighters on that card so they had to get ready and I was helping them



National Council Amendment 82-048

NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT	POSITION	EMPLOYEE NAME	GRADE	STEP
EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF	PRINCIPAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTATIVE ASSISTANT	TIGER, GEORGE SPAULDING, LUCY MAYHEW, WHITNEY	SALARY SG 12 SG 12	4-5 4-5
OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE	DANEY, ANITA SUE LOWE, MONA	SG 12 SG 10	3-4 7-8
OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF	COMPLEX SECURITY	HARRY, CECIL	SG 10	6-7
OFFICE OF SECOND CHIEF OFFICE OF SECOND CHIEF OFFICE OF SECOND CHIEF	SECOND CHIEF ASSISTANT TO THE 2ND CHIEF SECRETARY III	HICKS, LOUIS ANDERSON, LINDSEY SMITH, WHITNEY	SALARY SG 13 SG 12	5-6 4-5
CHIEF OF STAFF CHIEF OF STAFF CHIEF OF STAFF CHIEF OF STAFF	CHIEF OF STAFF POLICY ANALYST/SELF GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RESEARCH ASSOCIATE	COLBERT, CHARLES GOLDEN, BRENDA BEAR, TANIA PRICE, SARAH	MG 10 MG 10 SG 11 SG 12	8-9 2-3 9-10 5-6
SECRETARY OF THE NATION SECRETARY OF THE NATION SECRETARY OF THE NATION SECRETARY OF THE NATION	SECRETARY OF THE NATION DIRECTOR-SMALL BUSINESS LENDING EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT COUNSELOR	FIFE, BILL SIMMONS, LAHOMA BLUE, JOHNNY WIND, RUSSELL DAVID	MG 11 MG 9 SG 14 SG 11	2-3 4-5 7-8 6-7
SECRETARY OF THE NATION SECRETARY OF THE NATION SECRETARY OF THE NATION	PROJECT COORDINATOR OFFICE MANAGER PROGRAM SPECIALIST	WHITECLOUD, THUNDER FOX, EMERY S MURPHY, PAMELA SUE	SG 11 SG 09 SG 10	2-3 4-5 3-4
CDFI CDFI CDFI	BOARD MEMBER BOARD MEMBER BOARD MEMBER	WILSON, LAWRENCE KING, EARL TIGER, CYNTHIA	STIPEND STIPEND STIPEND	
MVSKOKE MEDIA MVSKOKE MEDIA MVSKOKE MEDIA	MVSKOKE MEDIA DIRECTOR MEDIA RELATIONS SPECIALIST PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	GOODVOICE, CHRISTINA RYAL, KACIE NICOLE ABBOTT, KENNETH MARK	MG 9 SG 11 SG 12	3-4 5-6 5-6
PUBLIC RELATIONS PUBLIC RELATIONS PUBLIC RELATIONS PUBLIC RELATIONS	MANAGER PROJECT SPECIALIST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	JAYNE-DORNAN, SELINA BEAR, LUANN TIGER, GEORGINA MONAHWEE, LATASHA SUE	MG 8 SG 12 SG 10 SG 10	6 3-4 5 6
MVSKOKE MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS MVSKOKE MEDIA/COMM	MANAGER WEBSITE DESIGNER/AUDIO VISUAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST GRAPHIC DESIGNER EDITOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER	VACANT DELAUNE, DARREN FIFE, GARY DELANA, TATE COSPER, STERLING HILL, MARK	SG 09 SG 09 SG 10 SG 11 SG 09	8-9 5 5 3-4 3-4
NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT MYSKOKE MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS	POSITION MEDIA COORDINATOR GRAPHICS SUPERVISOR PRINTING TECH I MEDIA SPECIALIST OFFICE MANAGER MULTI MEDIA PRODUCER SYSTEM ANALYST BROADCAST SPECIALIST PROJECT SPECIALIST PRINT TECHNICIAN I PRINTING TECH 1 [PT] MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPER MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST	EMPLOYEE NAME MCBRIDE, JESSICA TARYOLE, JENNIFER ROBERTS, WILLIAM RUTLAND, AMANDA MURPHY, WILMA SALSMAN, JASON SIANE, JOSHUA MOORE, JERRAD RICH, CHELSIE GRAY, ELIZABETH ROLLAND, JAMIE HARIO, CHAPARNE LUCHSINGER, DEVINEY ROSE	GRADE SG 11 SG 10 SG 09 SG 10 SG 11 SG 12 SG 08 SG 10	STEP 8 7-8 2-3 2 7 5-6 5-6 6 2-3 6-7 7-8
MUSEUM MANAGEMENT MUSEUM MANAGEMENT MUSEUM MANAGEMENT MUSEUM MANAGEMENT	INTERIM DIRECTOR SPECIAL PROJECT COORD/GRANT WRITER OFFICE MANAGER COLLECTION MANAGER	GILES, JUSTIN AZBELL, CHRISTOPHER MCCLENATHAN, SHAVON PIPESTEM, VERONICA ELIZABETH	MG 10 SG 15 SG 12 SG 12	2-3 6-7 5-6 5
TOURISM/RECREATION	DIRECTOR PROJECTS SPECIALIST OFFICE MANAGER ADVERTISING COORDINATOR MARKETING COORDINATOR MAINTENANCE WORKER FACILITY OFFRATOR MAINTENANCE WORKER RECREATIONAL AIDE RECREATIONAL AIDE RECREATIONAL AIDE RECREATION COORSULTANT RECREATION CONSULTANT RECREATION CONSULTANT RECREATION CONSULTANT RECREATION CONSULTANT	LOWE, WILLIAM ON-THE-HILL, BRIAN LOGAN, RYAN MOORE, MOLLY TIGER, CARMEN HICKS, JOSEPH SANDS, MIKE TIGER, CHRISTOPHER FRANK, JALEN A JONES, DARRAYL E JOHNSON, ROJER ROOT, KENDORA SPARKS, BRIDGETT	MG 10 SG 14 SG 13 SG 13 SG 12 SG 08 SG 12 SG 09 SG 06 SG 06 SG 06 SG 13 SG 11 SG 06	8-9 6-7 5-6 9-10 7-8 4-5 5-6 9-10 3 3 6-7 8-9 3
FOUNTAINHEAD GOIF COURSE	GENERAL MANAGER GENERAL MANAGER MCCHANIC/CART BARN MANAGER ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT GROUND MAINTENANCE PRO SHOP ATTENDANT PRO SHOP CLERK MAINTENANCE CART BARN TECHNICIAN PROSHOP CLERK (PT) MAINTENANCE (PT) DRIVING RAMGE/CART BARN (PT) MAINTENANCE (PT) CART BARN/GRILL	WOOD, MICHAEL FLOYD, USA BERRY, GREGORY PATTERSON, LARRY KAULAY, GEOFFREY DREW, STANLEY BERRYHILL, SHELLY FORREST, RODNEY KAULAY, JOSHUA HOLSTEN, LYNDA BARNETT, BARRY WALKER, JIMMY PARKER, CHRISTOPHER DEERE, TIJARRA M	MG 6 SG 10 SG 09 SG 09 SG 08 SG 07 SG 07 SG 06 HG 06 HG 06 HG 06 HG 06 HG 06	8-9 2-3 5-6 6-7 3-4 3-4 1-2 7-8 3 3 5-6 3 3-4
NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT FOUNTAINHEAD GOLF COURSE	POSITION COOK AIDE - EUFAULA (PT) MAINTENANCE TECH MAINTENANCE WORKER MAINTENANCE WORKER MAINTENANCE WORKER	EMPLOYEE NAME WINTERS, NANCY KAULAY, NOAH B BERRY, DARBY VACANT KARR, ZACKARY	GRADE HG 06 HG 06 HG 06 HG 06 HG 06	STEP 3-4 3 3 3 3
VASO VASO VASO	DIRECTOR-VETERANS AFFAIRS OPERATIONS OFFICER EXECUTIVE OFFICER	DAVIS, KEN DICKERSON, CHELSIE TARYOLE, SHAWN	MG 10 SG 13 SG 13	5-6 8-9 8-9
OFFICE OF TREASURY CONTROLLER CONTROLLER CONTROLLER	INTERIM CONTROLLER LEAD TRIBAL CASHIER OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	KILIAN, PATRICIA JOHNSON, MONIQUE NORTHCROSS, LADONNA	MG 11 SG 09 SG 10	3-4 5-6 6-7
FINANCE FINANCE FINANCE	FINANCE MANAGER BUDGET AND CONTRACT SPECIALIST BUDGET/COMPLIANCE ANALYST	VEGA, MARCUS BOOKER, RUBY HAWKINS, MONIQUE	MG 9 SG 14 SG 13	6-7 8-9 1
ACCOUNTING ACCOUNTING ACCOUNTING	ACCOUNTING MANAGER SUPERVISORY PAYROLL ACCOUNTANT PAYROLL SPECIALIST	COLLINS, KENDALL LOWE, REGINA LEWIS, NADINE	MG 9 SG 14 SG 10	1 8-9 6-7
ACCOUNTING	GENERAL LEDGER ACCOUNTANT SPECIAL REVENUE ACCT STAFF ACCOUNTANT STAFF ACCOUNTANT ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN	HARIO, KENNETH G WATTERS, JENNIFER WILLIAMS, VALERIE HICKS, KASSIDY SANDERS, MELISSA HOLLADAY, ROBERT SUTTON, STEPHANIE GOURD, SONJA LEMONS, ANGELA DEERE, ROBBY MCCOSAR, ALEXANDER DOOLEY, LORIE	SG 15 SG 13 SG 12 SG 12 SG 11 SG 10 SG 10 SG 10 SG 10 SG 10 SG 10 SG 10 SG 10	1-2 4-5 8-9 5-6 5-6 6-7 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4
PROCUREMENT PROCUREMENT PROCUREMENT PROCUREMENT	TRAVEL COORDINATOR TRAVEL COORDINATOR PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST PROCUREMENT TECHNICIAN	MANNS, DEBORAH LOWE, SHARON LEWIS, LISA BUTLER, RAYNA	SG 10 SG 10 SG 11 SG 9	1-2 6-7 7-8 8-9
OFFICE OF TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION	TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SECRETARY II ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	WILSON, JERRY HICKS, BEUNDA TANSEY, LULA PETERS, SANDRA	MG 12 SG 10 SG 8 SG 11	6-7 8-9 4-5 6-7

MCA 82-048 PARTA DEPARTMENT HUMAN RESOURCE & PERSONNEL SERVICES HU	POSITION MANAGER STAFFING COODDINATOR PERSONNEL SPECIALIST II FRINGE BENEFITS COORDINATOR RECORDS SPECIALIST LABOR RELATIONS COORDINATOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COORD II SECRETARY PERSONNEL SPECIALIST II GSA/FAC/TELE MANAGER GSA ASSISTANT MANAGER MAIL SPECIALIST GSA SRD CONTROLLER WAREHOUSE COORDINATOR INVENTORY CONTROLLER FACILITIES SUPERVISOR NIGHT SUPERVISOR NIGHT SUPERVISOR MAINTENANCE WORKER II DAY JANITOR 1 NIGHT IANITOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II DAY JANITOR (WTMKA) ALTERNATE RELIEF TECH MAINTENANCE WORKER II CARPENTER LEAD CARPENTER L	EMPLOYEE NAME HUGHES, DEAN SUITER-GAYER, SANDRA WALKER, GREG HAWKINS, KIMBERLY CHARLES, SANDRA CULLEY, MELISSA WILSON, DANIEL BRIGGS, LUCILLE SMITH, KATHERINE DOWDY, WILLIAM BIBLE, DENNIS LAY, KRISTEN O'NEAL, GARRETT COLLINS, SHAUN BEEBE, JUSTIN MACK ROBERTS, DANNY RABBIT, GERALD MENDOZA, MIGUEL FRANCIS, ANGELA ROBERTS, JERRY SHABI, RAYCHELLE HICKS, CHARLE HICKS, SILS LEWIS, SUNDY HICKS, TY DEERE, ROBEY CUNNINGHAM, ERIC COX, BRAYDEN D HICKS, JUSTIN DEERINWATER, COLEY L DENNIS, BRANDON WAYNE TULSA, FIREDA MAE GIPSON, LIHBISTEN WATSON, JULIAN BERUMEN, DONNA	GRADE MG 8 SG 11 SG 11 SG 11 SG 11 SG 11 SG 11 SG 10 SG 10 MG 6 MG 4 SG 8 SG 9 SG 9 SG 8 SG 9 SG 9 SG 8 SG 9	\$7FP 8-9 9-10 6-7 9-7 8-8 6-7 3-4 7-8 4-5 3-4 2-3 3-5-6 6-7 4-5 2-3 1 4-5 5-6 3-4 4-5 5-6 3-4 7 6-7 4-5 5-6 3-4 7 6-7 4-5 5-6 3-4 7 6-7 4-5 5-6 3-4 7 6-7 4-5 5-6 3-4 7 6-7
NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT TELEPHONY TELEPHONY TELEPHONY TELEPHONY TELEPHONY BIA/FACILITIES BIA/FACILITIES BIA/FACILITIES BIA/FACILITIES BIA/FACILITIES FLEET MANAGEMENT FLEE	TELEPHONY SUPERVISOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECH TELEPHONY COORDINATOR HVAC TECHNICIAN BIA DAY JAMITOR - BIA MANAGER FLEET MANAGEMENT CUERK FLEET MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH VEHICLE SERVICE TECH I MANAGER COMPUTER TECHNICIAN II ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT COMPUTER TECHNICIAN II OMPUTER TECHNICIAN II NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR TECHNICIAN II SECRETARY DEPT OF EDUCATION & TRAINING ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I GRANT WRITER JOM MANAGER FIELD SPECIALIST ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DATA CLERK FIELD SPECIALIST ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE MANAGER AMINISTRATOR OFFICE MANAGER MAINTENANCE FOREMAN EUGATIONAL AIDE MAINTENANCE FOREMAN EUGATIONAL AIDE MAINTENANCE WORKER RECREATIONAL COORDINATOR	EMPLOYEE NAME TAMAGE, THEODORE DUNN, HADEN DUNN, LAURA CROSBY, CHARLES FORD, TAMMY HOLUBY, SHANE GOUGHTLY, CYNTHIA SIMONS, LAURA POWELL, DEREK FOGLE, ZACKERY DEERE, JONATHAN FREILING, CYNTHIA CROWELS, AMOS TECUMSEH, LOUISE LUSTY, JOIN BRUTON, LONNIE WEST, BARBARA ROCK, SONYA PROCTOR, VINCE OGLE, DEVIN FITTS, MICHELLE R FAIR, SARA ELIZABETH RIVERA, PATRICK SCOTT JOHNSON, WAYNE HONAWA, DENISE FIELDS, APRIL D BLANSETT, TONYA LYNN KETH, REGINA PROCTOR, BILLY FISH, TERRY BROWNE, MICHELLE BATTENFHELD, ANITA PAHSETOPAH COLBERT, ALLAN BURNHAM, FRANCILE COLBERT, KENNETH FEELING, TERNY FEELING, STELLA HENNY, CHUCK HAYES, MICHAEL HENRY, CHUCK HAYES, MICHAEL	GRADE MG 4 SG 110 SG 100 SG 88 MG 9 SG 97 SG 100 SG 97 SG 100 SG 97 SG 97 SG 97 SG 97 SG 111 SG 112 SG 112 SG 112 SG 112 SG 114 SG 122 SG 99 SG 98	8-9 7-8 4-5 2-3 2-3 1-2 5-6 5-6 5-6 9 7-8 8-9 9-10 5-5 6 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 5 6-7 6 7 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 8 9 8 9
DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT EUFAULD OGNITIORY EUFAULD ADORNITIORY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING EMPLOYMENT EMPLO	POSITION LEAD ED AIDE/TRANS COORD HEAD COOK BEHA/VIORAL COUNSELOR EDUCATIONAL AIDE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR EDUCATIONAL AIDE COOK (PT) EDUCATIONAL AIDE (PT) EDU	EMPLOYEE NAME HIGGINS, JONAS COWGILL, DARRELL NORMAN, GAYLA HARRIS, SUE ANGLIN, REBECCA L HARIO, LAURA ANN FRYE, LORI BUCK, LYDIA FORBES, CODY WILLLIAM HARLEY, BETHANY ROCHELLE FOWLER, MANDY D BELCHER, EDNA JOSIE, COURTINEY DUNN, BARBARA COON, SAMANTHA MCGIRT, DEBORAH MCBEE, JESSINNA MARTEL, KIMBERLY SEVERS, DONNITA BIGGS, CACI JEFFREY, MARCUS D ON-THE-HILL, JERRIE DURDEN, CHRISTINE DURDEN, CHRISTINE DURDEN, CHRISTINE DURDEN, CARSIS BUNGESS, AMBER LEWIS, KANDRA LOWE, JESSICA BURGESS, AMBER CONNER, MEGAN MARIE FISH, TONY GREEN, KEVIN BRUNER, ASHLEY LEWIS, CARESA WILLIAMS, SPRINT GREEN, KETH GILLEY, TASHINA FRANK, FLORENCE SMITH, DAVID WYATT, CARRIE HICKS, JOSEPH HOUSTON DERRE, CHUMONA BARNETT, REBECCA PROCTOR, MIMNIE HARIO, PHILLIP	GRADE SG 9 SG 8 SG 13 SG 6 SG 09 SG 10 SG 06 HG 07 SG 07 SG 09 SG 07 SG 09 SG 07 SG 06 SG 07 SG 07 SG 07 SG 08 SG 07 SG 07 SG 07 SG 08 SG 07 SG 08 SG 07 SG 07 SG 08 SG 07 SG 08 SG 07 SG 07 SG 08 SG 08 SG 07 SG 07 SG 08 SG 07 SG	5TEP 4-5 4-5 4-5 4-5 10 9-10 3 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-7 9 5-6 7 4-5 3-4 3-7 4-5 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4
NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION EUCHEE LANGUAGE EUCHEE LANGUAGE EUCHEE LANGUAGE EUCHEE LANGUAGE EUCHEE LANGUAGE EUCHEE LANGUAGE HEAD START	POSITION MYSKOKE LANGUAGE TEACHER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CLERICAL ASSISTANT CLERICAL ASSISTANT CLERICAL ASSISTANT CLERICAL ASSISTANT EUCHEE LANGUAGE MANAGER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT EUCHEE LANGUAGE TEACHER EUCHEE LANGUAGE TEACHER ASSISTANT LANGUAGE TEACHER ASSISTANT LANGUAGE TEACHER ASSISTANT LANGUAGE TEACHER MANAGER PARENT/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SPECIALIST ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CENTER SUPERVISOR RUTHITION, DISBILITY/MENTAL SPECIALIST TEACHER CENTER SUPERVISOR TEACHER LEVEL 2 TEACHER LEVEL 2 TEACHER SUPERVISOR TEACHER TEA	EMPLOYEE NAME HICKS, GRACINE MONTIEL, JUDY PROCTOR, HEAVEN M GALBRAITI, SAGE ANN MARTIN, ANTHONY REVIS, LESTER BRUCE SPENCER, YONEY EVANS CARGIL, CURTIS EUGENE BROWN, JEANICE CARGIL, ANTHONY JAMES WILSON, TAMARA N CAMBEN, CORA SIMPSON, AMBER MCDANIEL, RUTH JESSICA BIROCREEK, JANICE SMITH, BETTY DEER, MOLESIA HOWARD-CLAYTON, TERESA DURREIT, AMANDA HILL, MICHAEL J JENNINGS, TERESA MESSER, LOU WALKER, LORETTA FORD, AMBER WELLS, DANA BARNEIT, MARY BRUNER, CHERYL SAWYEL, LAURA GLOVER, LISA A BRONCHO, SHANNON HAUMPY, JENNY THOMAS, TABITHA WARD, TINA REECE, MELANIEL YIN THOMAS, TABITHA WARD, TINA REECE, MELANIEL YIN THOMAS, TABITHA WARD, TINA REECE, MELANIEL YIN THOMAS, TAHTHA STIDMAN, HOLLY ROMERO, EMMA FIKICO, ALLEN FISH, ANTHONY BOWMAN, TINA M BALES, JACKIE BILLY, LUSA SLEET, ANGELA JONES, AMANDA	GRADE SG 9 SG 10 SG 06 SG 10 SG 06 SG 10 SG 06 SG 08 SG 09 SG 09 SG 8 SG 9 SG 09	\$7EP 7-8 8 8 3 4-5 3 3 5-6-7 5-6-7 8-9 4-5 8-9 4-5 8-9 3-4 2-3 5-6-7 6-7 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-6 5-6-5-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6-6 5-6 5
NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT HEAD START HEAD	POSITION TEACHER AIDE FAMILY SERVICE WORKER COOK COOK FAMILY SERVICE WORKER HEAD COOK COOK TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE BUS BRIVER/CUSTODIAN TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE DISABILITY TEACHER AIDE COOK TEACHER AIDE SCHOOL TEACHER AIDE USABILITY TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE TEACHER AIDE SCHOOL TEACHER AIDE OOK TEACHER AIDE DISABILITY TEACHER AIDE COOK TEACHER AIDE SCHOOL TEACHER AIDE OOK TEACHER AIDE DISABILITY TEACHER AIDE COOK TEACHER AIDE SCHOOL TEACHER AIDE OOK DISABILITY TEACHER AIDE OOK DISABILITY TEACHER AIDE COOK TEACHER AIDE SCHOOL TEACHER AIDE OOK DISABILITY TEACHER OOK DISA	EMPLOYEE NAME CROSSY, CATHY T TAYLOR, TAMMY HICKS, WANDA BLAIR, EDNA OWENS, APRIL HERRON, KERRY TARWATER, DANIE MILTER, BONITA LIOYD, RISTINA JONES, RENEE CLOVER, KAREN GIBSON, DIETRA STEPHENS, ROXANNE BRADY, SEAN LARNEY, SANDANTHA WHITE, SUMMER MERRILL, JONKAY KELLY, JENNIFER RANAE PIGEON, ADAM RICKMAN, ALISON COSER, PETE BARNETT, NATHAN OVERACKER, JONATHAN LEE STACY, ANDREW THOMPSON, DAWN LEE IR, SIMEON HARJO, KRISTIE SALLIE GILES, CHERRAH DERET-TURNEY, NANCY ROBERTSON, DWANNA L MASON, NANCY PARTRIDGE, SHAWN BARDIN, TANIA DAMPELL, KRISTEN LEIGH DEERE-YARGE, LEISCH MERCER, CYNTHIA CAMPBELL, KRISTEN LEIGH DEERE-YARGER, LEISCH MCGIRT, CHARLENER	GRADE SG 06 SG 07 SG 08 MG 10 SG 10	\$TEP \$-6 \$-6 \$-6 \$-6 \$-6 \$-6 \$-6 \$-5-6 \$-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6 \$-5-6

NCA 52-048 PART A DEPARTMENT ELDERLY NUTRITION E	POSITION MANAGER PROGRAM COORDINATOR PROGRAM MANAGER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT LEAD COOK SUPERVISOR SUPERVISOR HEAD COOK HEAD COOK HEAD COOK HEAD COOK AIDE HEAD COOK AIDE HEAD COOK AIDE HEAD COOK AIDE HEAD COOK HEAD COOK HEAD COOK AIDE HEAD COOK HEAD HEAD HEAD HEAD HEAD HEAD HEAD HEAD	EMPLOYEE NAME FONCO, LOU LINDSEY, WYIQUITA PETREE, JOANNA FIELDS, ANGELA FARRELL, JANA AHAISSE, TAKOCHE JONES, EUZABETH LOWE, LUZZIE LONG, SIDNEY DYER, LILLY LONG, NANCY MARSHALL, MANUEL BAILEY, MARY VAUGHN, BRIAN ALLEN, KENDELL GAMBLER, MAXINE WEST, KATHERINE JONES, TAMMY A SOWEKA, BONNIE CASEY, CYNTHIA B HILL, MARCELLA TIGER, BERYL FISH, SYLVIA JONES, JACKIE PIPPIN, MARY SIMS ZAMMORA, TONI LEE HAUSE, TEAUNA JOHNSON, AMANDA COPELAND, DABLA TIGER, BAMORA, TONI LEE HAUSE, TEAUNA JOHNSON, AMANDA COPELAND, DABLA TIGER, DOMATHAN LEWIS, CHIPPIE BARNETT, MILLICENT ADCOCK, DANIEL H CRAWFORD, JOSEPH HICKS, RICHARD WALTERS, MARY SANDS, JEANNIE ESKAMINE, PAMELA CHOTREY, JASON HILL, GRACINE POWELL, TONIA BUNNER, KATURA TRAIL, MARY SLIME, JEANLE SUMME, JORETTA FISH, DARLA SCREECHOWL, SARAH	GRADE STEP MG 8 2-3 SG 12 5-6 SG 11 2-3 SG 10 4-5 SG 01 4-5 SG 03 7-8 SG 07 7-8 SG 07 7-8 SG 07 7-8 SG 07 4-5 SG 08 8-9 SG 07 4-5 SG 07 4-5 SG 07 4-5 SG 07 2-3 SG 07 2-3 SG 07 2-3 SG 07 3-5 SG 08 3-9 SG 08 3-9 SG 09 3-5 SG 09 3-8 SG 09 7-8	NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF CHILDCARE OFFICE OF CHILDCA	POSITION TEACHER TEACHER TEACHER TEACHER TEACHER COOK TEACHER COOK TEACHER COOK TEACHER COOK TEACHER COOK TEACHER COOK TEACHER CENTER SUPERVISOR SUPERVISOR NUTRITION SUPERVISOR SUPERVISOR NUTRITION SUPERVISOR SUPERVISOR NUTRITION SUPERVISOR SUPERVISOR WAREHOUS OPERATOR WAREHOUSE OPERATOR WAREHOUS	EMPLOYEE NAME YODER, VANESSA HICKS, DANIELLE SANDERS, AMY L BOWMAN, PATRICA ANN DILDINE, CARA GREEN, VARETTA YAHOLA, STELLA ROBERTS, BETSY LUGRAND, RRYSTLE MEROANIAN, KERN LANREY, MARIAN GORDON, TONYA BERRYHILL, LINDA LANDRETH, KIMBERLY DEERE, LENDRA HARIO, ROBERTA HARIO, ROBERTA HARIO, ROBERTA LEWIS, YOLANDA BUSH, CHENN SHAVE, PAULA MITCHELL, KESELAR LEWIS, YOLANDA BUSH, CHERN SANDERTA LOVEJOY, JOYCE BACCON, MARCILLA STERNER, ANNA LOVEJOY, JOYCE BACCON, MARCILLA STERNER, ANNA LOVE, ANITA FACTOR, JIMMIE TAYLOR, LOUISE RAMIREZ, SHEILA MCGIRT, TINA WOLFE, MINNIE ROBERTS, APRIL DRESHAYNE MANLEY, MICHAEL HARIO JR, NELSON CHALAKEE, JIMSEY YAHOLA, TIMOTHY WEGLEY, ROBERT ORCHIT, ROMALD E DELLINGER, DIANAL D DONATHAN, JONATHON RAY BRINKLEY, AMBER SUE HARIO, NABER SUE	GRADE 5TEP \$G 66 3-4 \$G 66 3-4 \$G 66 3-4 \$G 07 5 \$G 06 3-4 \$G 07 5 \$G 06 3-4 \$G 07 2-3 \$G 06 4-5 \$G 07 2-3 \$G 06 3-4 \$G 07 2-3 \$G 06 3-4 \$G 07 3-4 \$G 07 3-4 \$G 08 3-4 \$G 07 1-2 \$G 08 3-4 \$G 08 2-3 \$G 08 2-3 \$G 08 3-4 \$G 07 3-2 \$G 08 3-4 \$G 07 1-2 \$G 08 3-4 \$G 08 2-3 \$G 08 3-4 \$G 07 3-4 \$G 08 3-4
MCA R2-OAR PART A DEPARTMENT WIC	POSITION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NUTRITION COORDINATOR NUTRITION SPECALIST CLUNIC COORDINATOR VENDOR COORDINATOR NUTRITION ASSISTANT NUTRITION ASSISTANT NUTRITION ASSISTANT NUTRITION ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR SOCIAL WORKER OFFICE CLERK RECEPTIONIST PROGRAM MANAGER SOCIAL WORKER I SUPERVISOR OFFICE CLERK RECEPTIONIST PROGRAM MANAGER SOCIAL WORKER I SUPERVISOR OFFICE ASSISTANT RECEPTIONIST SOCIAL WORKER INTAKE WORKER INTAKE WORKER SOCIAL WORKER INTAKE WORKER RECEPTIONIST SOCIAL WORKER RECEPTIONIST SOCIAL WORKER INTAKE WORKER RECEPTIONIST SOCIAL WORKER RECEPTIONIST INTAKE SPECIALIST MANAGER OFFICE LERK INTAKE SPECIALIST MANAGER OFFICE MANAGER CASE	EMPLOYER NAME COLBERT, CINDY POX, CONNIE DUGGINS, JOHNINE FISHER, JOANNA BALES, JEANA BEEN, TARA WALLACE, MISTY J VON TALTON, STEPHANIE LORAINE TIGER, NEENAH HAYES, ROBBIN BANNETT, APRIL WEST, FRANCES FIELDS, ANDREA HAND, CONNIE BUTTER, RECEENA SAMPLE, KELLY HARBELL, VICTORIA LONG, TONYA CARLOCK, DANIEL MCLOUD, REACHEL FRANK, COLAIA SOWEKA, SHASON R MASON, PRECIOUS SI MARY BROOKE GEE, IRIS LUCILLE CAMPBELL, KATRINA MARIE JOHNSON, LENA MCINTOSH, JOSEPH AMOS DELAUNE, GEORGEANN SEWELL, TSHIA MARIE JOHNSON, LENA HADDING, MESKE RABBIT, KAYLA TIGER, DARLEATA THOMAS, LILLIAN BEAVER, TERRA FARRIS, LOTTIE BURGESS, TINA TECLMSEH-WILLIAMS, CARMIN SMITH, CYNTHIA WELCH, APRIL BAKER, REBECCA	GRADE STEP \$6 10	NCA 22-048 PART A DEPARTMENT SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS FARM OPERATIONS FARM OPERATIONS FARM OPERATIONS REALITY	POSITION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II OIL & GAS MANAGER PROJECT MANAGER HANNA FARM MANAGER FARM EMPLOYEE REALTY MANAGER REALTY SPECALIST II AND ANALYST LAND ANALYST LERK REALTY ASSISTANT CLERK TRANSPORTATION MANAGER TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III SECRETARY II SECRET	EMPLOYEE NAME DEL ANGEL, VICTORIA ALLEN, JESSE HALTOM, WILLIAM HESSOM, EDWARD LARNEY, JAMES BARDIN, GERALD MCINTOSH, SONYA COLEMAN, BETTY BRITT, RACHEL KALER, BRANDY BRITT, KIMBERLY A. MOSS, SHAWN SULUYAN, BOBBY HOLUBY, AUDRIA FIKICO, ROBERT TIGER, ZOELVINN SMITH, LOU ANN HOLATA, MARY SIMPSON, ARCHIE MILAM, KAREN AUSMUS, JUDITH TECUMESH, SAMMATHA BEAR, ALYSSA D. LASARGE, CHARLEY SPANIARD, KOGEE HUMPHERY, TAMBA MESSER, PATRICIA HICKS, BUNNY HILL, ANY L CARSON, KIRK WIND, TAYLOR MORGAN, JOHNNY WATSON, TINA BEASLEY, DANIEL WILSON, KARMA MCKINNEY, DANIEL WILSON, FARRICIA TAYLOR, ARNOLD DOYLE, TONYA TAYLOR, ERIC BROWN, FRANKLIN	GRADE STEP SG 10 5-6 MG 7 9-10 SG 9 6-7 MG 3 2-3 SG 10 3-4 SG 10 3-4 SG 10 3-5 SG 12 4-5 SG 12 1-2 SG 13 5 SG 12 4-5 SG 12 1-2 SG 13 5 SG 12 4-5 SG 12 3-4 SG 11 5 SG 13 5 SG 13 5 SG 10 3-4 SG 10 3-4 MG 08 6-7 SG 07 S
MCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES CHILDREN COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMEN COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPM	TO OFFICE MANAGER T FIELD SPECIALIST PROGRAM MANAGER FINANCE OFFICER COMMUNITY TRAINING COORDINATOR MANTENANCE WORKER MANTENANCE WORKER COMMUNITY	EMPLOYEE NAME ELUS, STEPHANIE BRENNAN, SEQUOIA BUTLER, DAWN WIND, ROBYN WIND, ROBYN WIND, HUMMINIGBIRD, KIMEE MCINTOSH, SA-TAE MCINTOSH, ESSICA JIMBOY, DEBORA ANN BEAR, MELISSA SMITH, AUTLUMN MARIE PROCTOR, SHEENA DUNN, HOLLY DENNIS, BEVERLY ENGLISH, NELL LITTLE, SHANNON MCPERFYMAN, MELODY WAHNEE, STEVEN CHILES II, WINFRED TRANTHAM, JULIE HAMILTON, DONNA SMITH, DANIEL C BEVENUE, ALFRED JOHNSON, CHRISTA ROBINS, SHERRY LYNN BENDER, MICHELLE HICKS, RICHARD DUVALL, MARTHA HARJO, ERIKA MCGERTT, CAROL SISCO, BELINDA JONES, FLOYD FRANK, PATSY MORGAN, TREVOR BILLE, DIANNA WAKEEROR, DANACY THOMPSON, CASSANDRA COACHMAN, PATRICIA M BURKHALTER, FREDRICK LAMONT WOODFORK, CONRAD RAYNARD HARPE, SAMUEL EUWARD WHITE, SCOTT ANDREW COLEMAN, LAURA DENISE MCINTOSH, BERNANDO GRAYSON SR, NATHANIEL LEE ZAMORA, LUIS FERNANDO GRAYSON JR, NATHANIEL LEE	GRADE STEP SG 13 2-3 SG 10 1-2 SG 11 3-4 SG 10 7-8 SG 10 7-8 SG 11 3-4 SG 11 3-5 SG 11 3-5 SG 11 3-6 SG 11 3-7	NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT TRANSIT FEDERAL ROADS TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS TRIBAL DRIVEWAYS TRIBAL CONSTRUCTION TRIBAL CONSTRUC	POSITION OFFICE CLERK COACH/SHUTTLE BUS OPERATOR SHOTHE/COACH BUS OPERATOR SHUTTLE/COACH BUS OPERATOR SHUTTLE/COACH BUS OPERATOR LABORER/FQUIPMENT OPERATOR LABORER/FQUIPMENT OPERATOR LABORER CAUIPMENT OPERATOR LABORER MANAGER HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR FIELD SUPERVISOR SECRETARY I EQUIPMENT OPERATOR HEAVY	EMPLOYEE NAME WARHOP, ALENE BURGESS, ROGER SANDS, ARTHUR KELLY, VICTORIAL TAYLOR, JAMET TAYLOR, STEPHANIE JACOBS, CLARA GRAY, NETCHE STEPHENS, TIMOTHY FOX, HARVEY FUNK, GLENN SANDERS, VIRGIL LEDGER, JEFFERY BROWN, JOHN MORGAN, MICHAEL MCINTOSH, LASLEY RYDER REEDY, DAWSON B BASQUEZ, JIMMY GRIGGS, RICHARD CHASTAIN, SHELTON LONG, THOMASINE WILLIAMS, WENDELL LEWIS, LANCE ALRED, JAMES COLEMAN, BRENT BILLE, MICHELE CATES, KATHERINE BUNNER, KEITH ALPHIN, DUSTIN HARIO, THOMAS BUTLER, RICHARD HARIO, JASON HOLLIS VANDERSLICE, AARON BRENT FORD, JAYLOR JACOBS, JOHNNIE PEREZ, GANO KELLY, CHARLES LOWE-ZEPEDA, CORAIN THOMPSON, TIMMY HARIO-MOFFER, MELISSA FREEMAN, HERTITA PROCTOR, DAVID	GRADE STEP SG 06 3 3 56 10 1-2 56 06 2-3 56 07 2 56 10 1 7 8 56 9 9-10 56 9 4-5 56 10 5-6 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10 1-2 56 10
NCA 82-048 PARTA DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMEN TANF TANF TANF TANF TANF TANF TANF TAN	TOMMUNITY COORDINATOR CASE MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST YOUTH PROGRAMS COORDINATOR COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATOR SECRETARY OFFICE MANAGER INTAKE SPECIALIST CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST OFFICE ASSISTANT CASE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST DIRECTOR PASTORAL CARE ADVOCATE MAINTENANCE WORKER TRAINING ACTIVITY SPECIALIST CHILD CARE SPECIALIST PROPERTY MAINTENANCE WORKER ADM ASTS THANKE WORKER MASTER TEACHER MASTER TEACHER MASTER TEACHER MASTER TEACHER	EMPLOYEE NAME BEAVER, MEAGAN LEIGH GROGAN, NICOLE SMITH, DAVID SALTSMAN, ERIN AUTRY, TOLISSA TAYLOR, NICOLE PENDERGRASS, MARK PROCTOR, BILLIE RANDALL LAUREN STONE, AMY BOTONE, SHELBY PEIFER, LAURA ANDERSON, TERRIE C DUNSON, DAVID HAND, CHRISTOPHER CARSON, CHRISTY HARD, RANDY LOYD, MANDY HILL, BILLY DEAN CARNES, KAREN A O'NEAL, BARBARA AHTONE, JOANN FRANK, NEWMANN TATE, VICKI LEWIS, TAMMY GIODENS, BECKY COLLETT, DIANA RAINBOLT, LAURIE BROWN, MARIAH BRANUM, ANITA BERNICE SHADDEN, RICHARD DALLYOUS WATASHE, CYNTHIA RABBIT, TAMMY KELLEY, KATIE BYRD, YAHDEKA WASHINGTON, MICHAEL LEE, SEBRINA SANDS, GARRETT WATTERS, TRACY LITTHINDRER, REGINA TRAY, METISA	GRADE STEP MG 4 5 SG 11 8 SG 11 4-5 SG 11 9-10 SG 11 9-10 SG 12 3 SG 9 5-6 SG 10 3-4 SG 09 1 SG 10 1 MG 6 5-6 SG 11 7-8 SG 7 6-7 SG 10 1-2 SG 7 6-7 SG 10 6-7 SG 10 6-7 SG 10 5-6 SG 11 7-8 SG 7 6-7 SG 10 5-6 SG 11 5-6 SG 12 5-6 SG 10 5-7	NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT CULTURAL PRESERVATION GEOSPATIAL GEOSPATIAL GEOSPATIAL GEOSPATIAL GEOSPATIAL GEOSPATIAL GEOSPATIAL GEOSPATIAL RISK MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARBOR CARE A	POSITION OFFICE CLERK (PT) SECRETARY! ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECH TECHNICAL SPECIALIST LIBRARIAN CEMETERY CREW CEMETERY CREW GIS COORDINATOR GIS ANALYST GIS ANALYST GIS ANALYST GIS ANALYST GIS ANALYST GIS TECHNICIAN APPLICATION DEVELOPER DATABASE ANALYST/PROGRAMMER RISK MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MGMT. SUPERVISOR EMERGENCY MGMT. SUPERVISOR EMERGENCY MGMT. TECHNICIAN ACS SUPERVISOR ARBOR CARE SERVICE WORKER ARBOR CARE SERV	EMPLOYEE NAME HICKS, LOIS WESLEY, JOHNNIE TARPALECHEE, ANTHONY T WENDT, LEEANNE SOWERS JR, ROBIN R BUTLER, RAELVINN ASHLEY SOWERS, ROBIN KING, ALLEN HICKS, CHARLEY HAND, FRANK SPROUSE, TONYA COLEMAN, REBECCA ANDERSON, JOSEPH BARNETT, JOSHUA RIWIN, RAYMOND GIBSON, AMIE R BOOKER, PHILLIP TULSA, SYLVIA NICHOLS, JAMES HARLEY, ALLEENA HICKS, OSCAR HICKS, JOSEAR HICKS, JAMES CHAMBERLAIN, MATTHEW HORSE, DEWEY MCPERFYMAN, ERNEST HICKS, SHERMAN THOMAS, JOHNNY EDMUNDSON, PRESTON TULSA, JOE WILLIAMS, JAMES BEAVER, DEL WILLIAMS, JOHNNY JOSE, RODNEY STANLEY, DENISE SALSMAN, MICHAEL DANIELS, SUSUMU HOOPER, STEVEN JOE	GRADE STEP HG 6 3 SG 9 4-5 HG 06 3 SG 13 7 SG 11 6 SG 09 7-8 SG 9 5-6 SG 9 5-6 SG 14 4-5 SG 11 4-5 SG 11 4-5 SG 12 2 MG 8 5-6 SG 12 2 MG 8 5-6 SG 13 3-4 SG 12 2 MG 8 8-6 SG 13 3-4 SG 10 7-8 SG 10 1-2 SG 11 1-2
NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF CHILDCARE	POSITION MASTER TEACHER TEACLER TEACHER	EMPLOYEE NAME GARTRELL, MARIA DEBRE-TURNEY, LESHA KING, KIMBERLY GIBSON, MARLENE RAINBOLT, RACHEL MONDRAGON, ALDORA TAYLOR, AMANDA HANSEN, JOAN COTTRELL, LACRETIA YAZZIE, KATHYRN LEGRAND, LACI PROCTOR, PAIGE L HOOVER, WYONA J FISH, SHANNON D HARJO, FELICIA R ROBINS, DAWN DAVIS, ANGELICA COULSON, JERRI DILL, DANNETTE C ROGERS, COURTINEY R ALEXANDER, NIKKI OVERSTREET, DORIS CLAYTON, MAKAYLA REINHARDT, ANDREA WEATHERS, REEM BEAR, NICHOLE PERRY, KIMBER J CONTU, MERESSA ANN DYKES, AMY LUANN ADAIR, MICHEL LEANNE ANDERSON, VELETTA BARZELLONE, SHARON HIGHTOWER, AMY CHASTAIRI, GLENDA LEBLANC, DONNA LYTLE, DIANA ANTWINE, LAKEIA FRAZIER, ESSICA DORSEY, DONNA JOHNSON, LISA BERRYMAN, ANGEL HARN, GIAN M CHIELT LONNA HILLIER, LESNICA DORSEY, DONNA JOHNSON, LISA BERRYMAN, ANGEL HARN, GIAN M CHRISTY, LOUANA PHILLIES, NANCY STOKES, TERRY DOWLING, EVELYN BERRY, KAYLA	GRADE STEP 5G 07 3-4 5G 06 3-4 5G 06 3-4 5G 07 1-2 5G 06 3-4 5G 06 3-5 5G 06 3-6 5G 07 1-2 5G 06 3-7 5G 06 3-7 5G 07 1-2 5G 06 3-7 5G 07 1-7 5G 07 5G	NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TRIBAL PLANNING TRIBAL PLANNING TRIBAL PLANNING CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONSERVATION COMMISSION SECRETARY OF HOUSING SECR	POSITION ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST I PLANNING DIRECTOR OFFICE MANAGER PLANNER BOARD MEMBER BOARD MEMBER BOARD MEMBER SECRETARY OF HOUSING CLIENT SERVICES SPECIALIST COMPLANCE SPECIALIST COMPLANCE SPECIALIST ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER LAND RECORDS SPECIALIST SYSTEMS OPERATOR COMPUTER GRAPHICS/WEB SECRETARY III PROJECT MANAGER BUGGET/CONTRACT MANAGER INSPECTOR CONTRACT SERVICE SPECIALIST INSPECTOR INSPECTOR CONTRACT COORDINATOR COUNSELOR INSPECTOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER CONSTRUCTION TECH II CONSTRUCTION TECH II CONSTRUCTION TECH II DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST FORCE ACCOUNT MANAGER CONSTRUCTION TECH II DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST FORCE ACCOUNT MANAGER CONSTRUCTION TECH II INVENTOR LERK CONSTRUCTION TECH II INVENTOR CLERK CONSTRUCTION TECH III CONSTRUCTION TEC	EMPLOYEE NAME BARNETT, ELIJAH JENNINGS, CODY STONE, LESLIE CASTLEMAN, JOSHUA D DAVIS, ROBERT Y JENKINS, ROBIN ELINIE MOUSS, EDWARD FI FOX, BRADLEY FRANK, JOELLEN MORGAN, PATRICIA BEAVER, BRANT BUNNER, HAZEL DEENINGWATER, MELINDA KING, DAVID FINICO, NADINE FOGLE, RANCE D HEFNER, DEBRA ROBERTS, ROLAND MCCARGO, RENATEE BERRYHILL, VICTOR LOWE, TONY FOX, TONETTE PASCALE, DAVID MCDOWELL, PATRICK POOLE, ALBERT BUTLER, BRANDON JONES, RYAN PROCTOR, MICHAEL LOWE, LINDA SETTLEWFIRE, STACY BERRYHILL, MARIAN MCINTOSH, STALEY BEAR, PATRICK PROCTOR, MICHAEL LOWE, LINDA SETTLEWFIRE, STACY BERRYHILL, MARIAN MCINTOSH, STALEY BEAR, PATRICK PROCTOR, ANDREW FINICO, EASTER FLETCHER, CLYDE MANUS, JEFRERY FOX, MARCY BURGESS, MONROE JONES, AUSTIN T	GRADE STEP SG 11 1-2 MG 9 8-9 SG 10 6-7 SG 11 5-6 STIPEND STIPEND STIPEND STIPEND STIPEND STORM MG 10 2-3 SG 10 4-5 SG 11 5-6 SG 12 6-7 SG 9 4-5 MG 9 1-2 SG 12 6-7 SG 9 4-5 SG 9 2-3 SG 9 6-7 SG 10 3-4 SG 12 5-6 SG 10 3-4 SG 10 3-4 SG 10 3-4 MG 5 5-7 SG 9 3-3 SG 9 3-3 SG 9 3-4 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 9 6-7 SG 9 3-7 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 9 7-8 SG 12 5-6 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 9 7-7 SG 9 3-7 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 9 7-7 SG 99 2-3 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 9 7-7 SG 99 2-3 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 9 7-7 SG 99 2-3 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 90 3-4 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 90 3-7 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 90 3-7 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 90 3-7 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 90 3-7 SG 10 3-4 MG 6 5-6 SG 90 3-7 SG 90 3-8 SG 12 9-10 SG 11 3-4 SG 10 3-4

NCA 82-048 PARTA DEPARTMENT FORCE ACCOUNT FORCE ACCOUNT FORCE ACCOUNT FORCE ACCOUNT FORCE ACCOUNT FORCE ACCOUNT HOUSING MANAGEMENT AUSING MANAGEMENT HOUSING SANGEMENT HOUSING ADMISSIONS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES CONSTRUCTION SE	POSITION SECRETARY CONSTRUCTION TECH III CARPENTER CONSTRUCTION TECH II HOUSING MANAGEMENT MANAGER RECEPTIONIST ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE CLERK ANNUAL INSPECTOR INSURANCE SPECIALIST COUNSELOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT COUNSELOR FILE CLERK COUNSELOR COUNSELOR COUNSELOR MANAGER MAINTENANCE/HOUSEKEEPING SYSTEMS OPERATOR II MAINTENANCE TECH MANAGER HOUSING SERVICES SPECIALIST ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR HOUSING SERVICES SPECIALIST RECEPTIONIST MANAGER HOUSING SERVICES SPECIALIST RECEPTIONIST MANAGER HOUSING INSPECTOR OFFICE SUPERVISOR INSPECTOR OFFICE SUPERVISOR INSPECTOR OFFICE SUPERVISOR RESIDENT SERVICES SPECIALIST MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN SITE MANAGER - CHECOTAH MAINTENANCE TECH LUTAULA MAINTENANCE TECH SITE MANAGER OKEMAH MAINTENANCE TECH LUTAULA MAINTENANCE TECH MAINTENANCE	EMPLOYEE NAME WILLIE, KATHERINE VANDECAR, RYAN BUNNY, FAREN ALEXANDER, JAMES NATSEWAY, NATASHA LEE, JANET BEAN, JANICE MURPHY, PATRICK CRUMP, LENDRA MOSQUITO, DELORES HARDING, REBEKAH MONDRAGON, DESTINA WALKER, FELESIA PUEBLA, VERONICA HARRIS-NOEAR, KERMITTA S BUNNER, PATRICIA MORGAN, SARAH WIND, MELODIE BERRYHILL, MERLE HARJO-KING, LORA GROUNDS, LARRY WATASHE, SALENA HALL, MEBA NICHOLS, JAMIE BELL, RHIANNON SUE MAYES, JERRY WITT, ROBEYN DAVIS, JOHN GOODVOICE, STEPHANIE LAY, ROBERT TOTTRESS, IVALENE MCNAC, ERIC HARJO, CARA PARSONS, BOBBY JONES, AARON K COACHMAN, LUCINDA VAHOL, JUSTIN SHARP, PERCY LEWIS, MICHAEL	GRADE STEP \$6 08 7-8 \$6 12 9-10 \$6 11 5-6 \$6 11 5-6 \$6 11 5-6 \$6 07 5-6 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-4 \$6 09 3-5 \$6 08 5-7 \$6 08 2-3 \$6 08 7-8 \$6 10 7-8 \$6 10 7-8 \$6 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PUBLIC GAMING	POSITION INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR FIELD INVESTIGATOR FEGULATORY AGENT LUCENSING AGENT REGULATORY AGENT REGULATORY AGENT REGULATORY AGENT INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDITOR REGULATORY AGENT VENDOR LUCENSING AGENT SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	EMPLOYEE NAME MCCOY, MARLO CHAMBERLAIN, NANCI NOON-TOMAN, MARTHA GOPFREY, SUSAN BEAR, ERV SAWYER, JASON CHECOTAH, ROMAN JACKSON, KARLATA MOONEY, HUNTER WIND, MESKE KELLY, JORDAN MICHAEL CHILES, WINFRED CONDRE, ZANE CHACON, KYLA JAMAY GARCIA, KRISTA THOMPSON, EULZABETH MILAM, TANYA JAMES, BUDDY CESNA, CONNIE MORGAN, NACOLE JEFFERSON, PATRICIA TRIMBLE, RONALD TIGER, MARTIN MILLER, DONNA GONZALEZ, BEVERLY WHISENHUNT, JEANNIE BIGPOND, JASON WATKINS, MILDRED DYKES, TERESA DYKES	GRADE STEP SG 10 4-5 SG 09 7-8 SG 09 7-8 SG 09 6-7 SG 09 6-7 SG 09 6-7 SG 10 1-2 SG 09 5-6 SG 09 3-4 SG 09 1-2 SG 09 1-2 SG 09 3-4 SG 09 1-2 SG 09 3-4 SG 09 1-2 SG 09 3-5 SG 09 1-2 SG 09 3-6 SG 09 3-7 SG 08 6-7 SG 08 5-6 SG 08 5-7 SG 07 7-8
WCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT EUFAULA HOUSING EUFAULA HOUSING OKMULGEE HOUSING OKFICE OF JUSTICE ATTORNEY GENERAL OHLD SUPPORT SERVICES CHILD SUPPORT SERVI	POSITION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/ORMULGE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/ORMULGE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN SITE MANAGER-ORMULGEE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN RECEPTIONIST ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JUV 1ST ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEGAL SECRETARY I OFFICE MANAGER ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL CASS SPECIALIST I INV CHILD SUPPORT EMPORCEMENT FINANCIAL SPECIALIST OFFICE MANAGER ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PARALEGAL RECEPTIONIST CASE SPECIALIST I I ELGAL SECRETARY II COLLEGE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS	EMPLOYEE NAME BANNETT, ACEE BEAVER, JOHN HOLLAND-ROSE, BETTY POPE, JOHNNY KALER, BEYNAN HARVEY, TAMMY JONES, TERRY BARRETT, CARLENE HICKS, ANNA BURGIN, SHANNA DELLINGER, KEVIN TOPPAH, JO ETTA LOCUST, RACHAEL FREEMAN, CYNTHIA HARRISON, SHELLY DUFF, TASHA DOWELL, LINDSAY MILLER, MANDY GRIFFITH HOTVEDT, CARLY D ARKEETA, SUSAN FRANKS, NORMAN CHECOTAH, TAMMY SHACKELTON, STEPHANIE WILLIAMS, CAROL, HUNTER, SHERYL JONES, KIMBERLY CAWNOOD, PAULIA JAMES, CHARCUTTE BERRY, SHANE WIND, JOSHUA JIMBOY, TESSIE MOORE, JESSICA TAYLOR, JADE YATES, DEBORAH SALSMAN, BETHANY BIBLE, ROBERT HART, JAN	GRADE STEP SG 06 5-6 SG 06 3-4 SG 9 8-9 SG 07 4-5 SG 9 7-8 SG 07 5 SG 07 5 SG 07 5 SG 07 2-3 SG 08 6-7 SG 15 8-9 MG 12 7-8 SG 14 3-4 SG 12 5-7 SG 13 8-9 SG 14 7-8 SG 11 1-2 SG 11 3-4 SG 12 3-4 SG 13 3-4 SG	NCA 82-048 PART A DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PUBLIC GAMING	POSITION SURVEILLANCE OFFICER	EMPLOYEE NAME NIESEL, LINDA MATTISON, TIFFANY HAGGARD, LONNIE CALLISON, DIXIE FIELDS, TOWN RAMIREZ, MALEAH HARJO, AMBER R. WARRIOR, BRENDA GIBSON, TYRONE HALLUM, SHERYL INGRAM, ROY SPAULDING, SAMRIA RIVAS, VICTOR VAUGHN, BRADI OSBORN, JENNIFER STARR, MARTA CHALAKEE, CHEYENNE MCNAC, MALI BAKER, JOHN BAILEY, CLAYTON BELL, BRITTINY MILLER, SCOTT STEED, RANDY YORK, MICHAEL HEMINGWAY, CHARLES WILLIAMSON, RYAN GROSS, RICK JULY, RETA JIM, ANGEL A GIBBERT, AMBER D BERRYHILL, VANESSA KAY BRINSFIELD, EBONY NICOLE WOODEORK, STANLEY POLLARD, KACEE D DAN, MERNISSA NARCOMEY, MARY BEAVER, KATRINA L MOONEY, DILLON TIGER, AMBER MICHELLE HEMINGWAY, CHENNEY POLLARD, KACEE D DAN, MERNISSA NARCOMEY, MARY BEAVER, KATRINA L MOONEY, DILLON TIGER, AMBER MICHELLE HEMINGWAY, COBIE DAWN NIKON, JAIME CHEYENNE JACKSON, KAREY JANE KELLEY, KENNETH ALLAN TILLEY, MELANIE JEAN DANIELS, DANA LORRAINE VANCE, SARA L DEERINGWATER, SHAWN D	GRADE STEP S6 07 7-8 S6 07 7-8 S6 07 7-8 S6 07 7-8 S6 07 6-7 S6 07 5-6 S6 07 5-7 S6 07
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Precinct registration closes 5 p.m. Oct. 28

A Myskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Feds to pay estimated \$4 million to MCN

Tribes to benefit from DOI settlement

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In a Sept. 17 press release, the U.S. Department of the Interior in conjunction with the Department of Justice disclosed a proposed \$940 million settlement to be divided up among 640 Native American tribes.

The settlement is in response to a 25-year long class action lawsuit for underpayment of contract funds by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to programs such as law enforcement, housing and federal education.

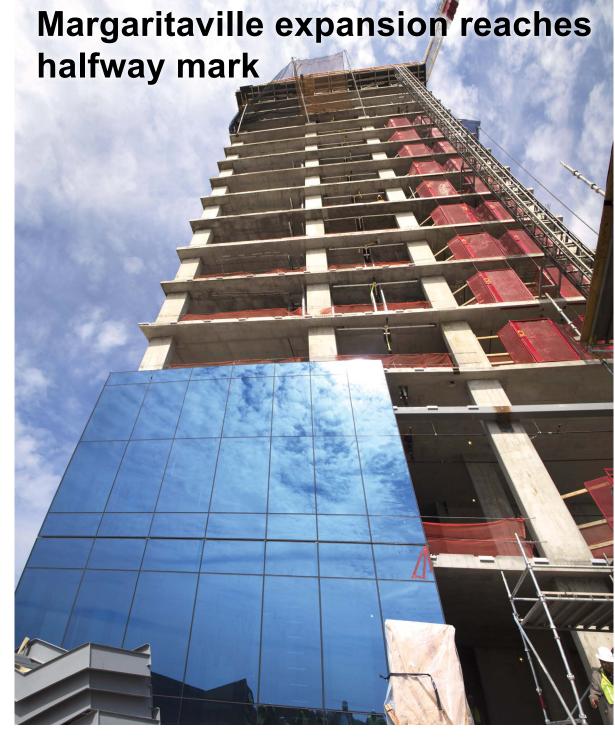
According to a court filing about the case, this settlement will cover support cost for fiscal years 1994–2013.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Policy Analyst and Self-Governance Officer Brenda Golden explained that when the Indian Self-Determination Act was passed in 1975, it authorized the BIA to contract tribal governments to fulfill services and functions previously performed by the bureau.

"What they didn't do was give us enough money to do those functions and so, every year there would be a shortfall in the amount of self-governance funds," Golden said. "They have cut their staff and moved more duties to us without actually paying us infull for what we were spending."

DOI Secretary Sally Jewell

Feds-3



Amanda Rutland/MNN

The Margaritaville themed expansion project construction site for River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla., photographed Sept. 22 during a media tour. As of the tour, 15 floors of the planned 27-story hotel for the project were completed.

Update tour held at River Spirit

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Construction on the \$365 million Margaritaville themed expansion project for River Spirit Casino, located along

the Arkansas River in Tulsa is halfway complete said RSC General Manager of Operations

Jerry Floyd.

According to an RSC release, when completed, the project will consist of a 27-story hotel, two-story Margaritaville restaurant

convention space, entertainment venue, retail stores and an additional gaming floor as well as parking.

An on-site media tour of the 15 floors completed for hotel portion was hosted Sept. 22.

and bar, riverfront pool, Halfway - 2

CMN hosts annual fall festival



Chelsie Rich/MNN

College of the Muscogee Nation faculty and staff members competed against students Sept. 9 in a game of tug-of-war at the annual CMN Fall Festival on the college campus in Okmulgee, Okla.

Event brings faculty, staff and students together

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation held their annual Fall Festival Sept. 9 to welcome new

enrollees and welcome back returning students on the college campus in Okmulgee.

Students, faculty and staff gathered together for a day of fun filled events.

"We do this every year for

Festival - 2

Community grant amendment veto override fails during Council

Free press legislation addressed

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 26 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed a veto on:

veto on:
• NCA 15-185 repealing Title 11, Chapter 3 titled, 'Grant Funds for Economic Development and Social Service Programs' and replacing it with a new Title 11, Chapter 3 titled, 'Annual Funds for Operational Costs, Economic Development and Social Service Programs of Chartered Communities'. Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment.

The Community Development Block Grant authorizes an annual appropriation to the communities for their operations. The grant is divided up among them based on their economic status.

Since a shortfall of funding was reported regarding the current system, the amendment would have created a Community Operation and Development Fund in its place, providing a set amount of \$1.5 million to be divided up equally and provided in three increments not to exceed \$20,000 over the year in a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.

For further information about the bill view 'Muscogee

Council - 6

CORRECTION

The General Election is Nov. 7

The date that ran in candidate profile section beginning with the 'Muscogee Nation News' Aug. 1 edition had the date incorrectly listed as Nov. 2

I regret this error and a correction will run on page 1 through the Nov. 1 edition.

Sterling Cosper MNN Editor

Council approves budget for first FY 2016 quarter

Ordinance passed to maintain funding amid negotiations

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An emergency session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 29 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

During the session, the Council addressed NCA 15-224, approving a continuing budget ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for fiscal year 2016.

Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0. Reps. Shirlene Ade, Adam Jones and Robert Hufft were absent.

NCA 15-226 was addressed during another emergency session Oct. 6 amending the initial bill to fund additional services and address discrepancies.

Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Reps. David Hill, James Jennings and Lucian Tiger voting against it. Rep. David Nichols was absent.

The legislation states that the FY 2016 budget was delayed due to funding requests and projected revenue and the Council did not have enough time to review and approve it.

The ordinance is needed to fund all three branches of government until the full FY 2016 budget is approved. It provides funding until Jan. 1, 2016.

The FY 2016 budget begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30, 2016.

The legislation allows for various percentage tiers of

Budget - 4

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our students," Dean of Student Affairs Krystal Wind said.

The event featured activities such as: tug-of-war between the students and the faculty and staff, a photo booth, blood drive, HIV testing, as well as free throw and three-point contests and many others.

"It's just a way to get all the students to come together to meet one another because fall is always our highest enrollment," Wind said.

Door prizes were given to the winners of the activities and all students enrolled for fall classes were also entered to win prizes.

"We want to get to know our students. We want them to get to know us," Wind said. "Become more familiar with one another. That way they know who they can go talk to whenever they might come across an issue they may be having on campus."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments and programs were also on location with informational booths to present the resources they offer.

"The CMN Student Senate

organization raised \$126.61 in the 'Pennies for Pies' activity during Fall Fest 15," Student Success Counselor Elsa Lowe said.

The 'Pennies for Pies' features a donation collection to choose which faculty member would get a pie in the face.

"The Student Senate has decided to save the money and continue fundraising, so that they may purchase gifts or treats for the children at the Murrow Indian Children's Home during the Christmas season," Lowe said. "Last year, the CMN Student Senate was able to contribute approximately \$600 worth of items to the Murrow Indian Children's Home."

CMN sophomore Alexander Fields from Okmulgee shared his thoughts about fall fest.

"Everyone's out in the open just having fun and just being one big tribe." Fields said. "Everyone's coming together to just have fun together."

For more information on events call: 918-549-2817.

For information about CMN visit: www.mvsktc.org.

HALFWAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Floyd explained that the facility is considered a 'local's casino' within the gaming industry because it currently has no hotel.

"We are going from no hotel to the largest hotel in the City of Tulsa with 484 rooms and suites," Floyd said.

Once construction is complete, Margaritaville will be a separate gaming facility.

"We will have two casinos under one roof. Of course, our River Spirit Casino," Floyd said. "With the expansion, we will add a second casino. It will be the Margaritaville casino with 850 [gaming machines] covering 350,000 square feet of gaming space."

Floyd said RSC has been in operation six years and the demand for more gaming space has existed since opening.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief George Tiger was on-hand for the tour and spoke about the economic impact.

"The final product will allow us to be able to get some revenues to continue providing the revenues to our citizens with much needed programs and services," Tiger said.

According to a fact sheet issued by RSC, the construction site employs 350 workers daily.

The fact sheet also stated that when completed, the twoyear construction project will have brought \$303.5 million to the Tulsa area and 800 fulltime jobs will be created upon opening of the facility.

The estimated completion date for the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant is fall of 2016 and the hotel and entertainment facility is set to open that winter.

According to an River Spirit Casino release, when completed, the project will consist of a 27-story hotel, two-story Margaritaville restaurant and bar, riverfront pool, convention space, entertainment venue, retail stores and an additional gaming floor as well as parking.

Citizen poet wins major award, releases new collection



Submission

Harjo receives further national recognition

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — September was quite a month for Muscogee (Creek) poet, author and musician Joy Harjo.

Harjo was named by the Academy of American Poets Sept. 10 as winner of the 2016 Wallace Stevens Award. The award from the prestigious poetry group came with a \$100,000 prize and high praise for her work.

Harjo was aware she had been nominated, but was surprised to learn the Associated Press had made the announcement nationally.

Harjo pointed out the potential for what the award can do

for other writers.

"I think what is really helpful here, is that it opens the door and it opens an awareness for other young Native poets and there are many," she said.

Harjo joked about relatives showing up asking for loans and said the cash award would bring some relief to her budget.

"It'll pay bills and taxes. You know, taxes takes a huge chunk," she said.

Harjo plans to use some of the funds to support an arts organization she and some other Mvskoke artists hope to establish.

On the Academy website, Chancellor Alicia Ostriker said, "A Creek Indian and student of First Nation history, Harjo is rooted simultaneously in the natural world, in earth—es-

pecially the landscape of the American Southwest—and in the spirit world.

"Aided by these redemptive forces of nature and spirit, incorporating Native traditions of prayer and myth into a powerfully contemporary idiom, her visionary justice-seeking art transforms personal and collective bitterness to beauty, fragmentation to wholeness and trauma to healing."

Besides recognition from the national poets group, Harjo released her eighth book of poetry at the end of September, 'Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings.'

The newest work differs from some of the more serious subjects that have been the focal point of her past writings.

"I think a lot of people think it's much lighter—or not lighter, but, you know, what I see in it," she said. "An Athabascan friend of mine from Alaska who saw the manuscript said I sounded like I was more in my heart; that she could hear really me speaking for the first time, at a certain place. You know what that has to do with, was coming home."

Harjo hopes to bring her new publication to Muscogee (Creek) country at a future date and perhaps, make it available through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation gift shop.

'Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings' is available at: www.Amazon.com.

SRO Transit helps preserve language while giving rides

Drivers connect with citizens through culture

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — If you were a Mvskoke language speaker, how would you feel if you could pick up the phone, call Muscogee (Creek) Nation for services and talk to someone who understood you? That would feel pretty great right?

It does happen at the MCN Southern Regional Office in Wetumka through the MCN Transit Department.

The SRO dispatcher is fluent Myskoke speaker Janet Taylor.

"If they call me and they want to speak Creek, I will be happy to speak back to them in our language," Taylor said. "This is what makes my job great, is to be able to speak my language to the people we help."

Once you are picked up, there are drivers who speak Mvskoke too. The drivers are Clara Jacobs and Arthur Sands.

"You can just feel the relief when you speak Creek to our passengers," Jacobs said. "There is a big smile on their face and they want to talk."

Most passenger destinations are within the city limits.

Those who need to run errands or have lunch at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center will call to get a ride; not only for the service but also because of the friendship they have with the drivers.

ould feel pretty great right? "I think because I can speak It does happen at the MCN Creek, our riders look forward to that," Jacobs said.

What is a typical day like in the SRO Transit office?

"As soon as we get here, we map out our day and who goes where," Taylor said. "Hardly any English is spoken among us and that is how we like it."

After they get everything ready for the day, the drivers and dispatcher know how this makes their passengers happy and does something much more meaningful.

"We are keeping this language alive," Jacobs said. "When I speak to our citizens and they speak back, it is keeping the Creek language out here. You never know who is listening and because we spoke it, they want to learn."

The language is kept alive at MCN by CDs, DVDs and classes but also by everyday people doing their jobs and having conversations.

At the end of the day, they total their fare from the travelers, look over the vehicles to make sure they are ready for the next day and say their farewells.

When they leave though, two things are taken with them. One is the fact that they made their passengers happier by speaking their Native tongue.

And two?

"When I get home, it is only Creek in my house," Taylor said. "It is a rarity if there is English, not unless we have company."

Jacobs shared that sentiment.

"We only speak our language at my house," Jacobs said. "I love it. It is a great feeling."

To make a reservation call: the Okmulgee office at: 918-732-7909 or the SRO location at: 405-452-1182.

MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER
DARREN DELAUNE

ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST GARY FIFE

gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov



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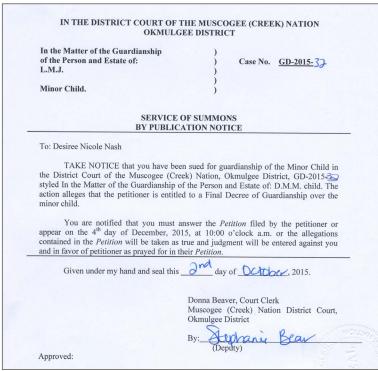
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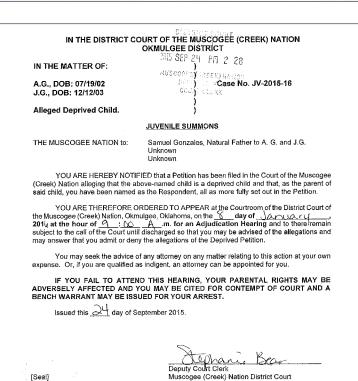
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Clinician discusses correlation between substance abuse, depression

MCNDH offers mental health screenings in October

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. Everyone has moments where they feel blue, but sometimes depression sets in making every day tasks difficult to cope with.

"Depression can affect of different people a lot ways and it's very common," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Program Coordinator and Clinician Leslie Crow said.

Symptoms of depression include anxiety, thoughts of death or suicide, debilitating fatigue and unexplained aches and pains.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 16 million adults in the U.S. had at least one major depressive episode in the past year.

There are many different types of depression and causes for each case vary.

"One of the signs of depression is increased substance abuse because that is something people often use as a coping mechanism. But it's not a healthy one," Crow said. "It also increases risks of suicide so it's really important to be aware of substance abuse and if it's beginning to increase or if it's beginning to cause problems."

coordination In with Red National Ribbon Week (Oct. 23-31) BHS is coordinating with area schools to promote healthy lifestyles and help prevent substance abuse.

National Red Ribbon Week is recognized to help raise awareness about and advocate against, drug use and provide resources to educate the public.

Crow said that there is a strong correlation between substance abuse and depression. In some cases depression can cause substance abuse or vice versa.

"Sometimes abusing substances for other reasons or even recreationally, just the substances themselves can cause depression because they do affect the chemicals in the brain and make it really difficult for people to be able to feel pleasure and feel normal enjoyment and satisfaction with daily life," she said.

According to NAMI, 8.4 million of the 20.7 million adults in the U.S. who abused substances also suffered from mental illness.

not corrected, symptoms of depression can lead to more intense symptoms including thoughts of suicide.

The MCN Department of Health has scheduled mental health screenings at locations around the MCN jurisdiction.

"They screen for depression, mood disorders, anxiety, which is sometimes labeled as bipolar disorder and then post-traumatic stress disorder," Crow said.

Each screening will provide participants with resources about mental health and substance abuse issues.

Health providers will ask individuals a few questions related their personal mental

Treatment for depression can include counseling and/or medication.

Any participant that receives a high score for symptoms of mental health issues will be referred to a mental health provider.

Mental health screenings are scheduled at the following locations:

Oct. 19-20: Sapulpa Clinic, Oct. 26-27: Wetumka Clinic Oct. 29-30: Eufaula Clinic

For more information about mental health screenings, call BHS at: 918-758-1930.

Croley finds new life path through TANF Program

Program reaches out to citizens in Tulsa

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I was in active drug addiction for about five years starting at around the age 13," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jentri Croley

Moving often and addicted to methamphetamine (meth), she said the turning point came when she learned she was preg-

"At one point I felt like I was stuck in a rut and I needed help and I didn't know where to go to get it. I kind of was for a long time, in this mindframe like, 'this is just how my life's supposed to be," Croley said.

She began going to drug treatment five days a week and volunteered on Saturdays. Unable to work to care for herself and her baby Jack, she reached out to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program in February 2014.

Croley was living at a pregnancy shelter in Tulsa when Jack was born and remained there for around a year. She then went to a transitional living program for working mothers.

"In addition to providing financial assistance and supportive services, the TANF staff also provides emotional support and encouragement," TANF Community Resource Coordinator Tolissa Autry said. "In many cases, participants are inspired just knowing that someone believes in them."

TANF participants are required to complete work participation hours, which can also help motivate them to seek employment to become self-sufficient or pursue education in an effort to increase their employability.

"This is a great example of complementing other community programs to provide a more comprehensive service solution that will not only address immediate needs, but create stability within the family," Autry said.

Croley said the structure of the TANF Program gave her the tools she needed to turn her life

She was able to plan her goals with a TANF staff member, instead of just idealizing them in her head.

"I can think about doing something all day long and not know how to do it, but when I talk about it with someone else, it kind of clears it up a little bit and makes it more concrete too," Croley said.

The goals she established were to move out of the shelter, become financially stable and go back to college.

Croley moved out of the transitional living center July 2015.

She paid down her fines and decided to make smart decisions with managing her money.

"My favorite part of TANF were the weekly incentives," Croley said. "At first, just because I was over the (income) limit didn't mean that we had enough, you know, money to get through everything that we needed."

In the beginning, she said that saving felt impossible.

Croley was promoted twice in a year at her job, and no longer depended on the weekly incentive to make ends meet.

"I started baby Jack a savings account... it's his with his name on it," she said. "I would split my incentives up between his account and my account."

Croley soon reaped the benefits of having an emergency fund after the transmission went out on her vehicle. She used the money to help purchase a new vehicle.

"It was the biggest blessing because I don't know what else I would've done," she said. "It felt really good to have that."

Croley was also able to go back to school and is in her second semester at Tulsa Community College studying liberal arts.

During her time as a TANF participant, she was able to utilize the MCN TANF satellite location in Jenks.

TANF Career Specialist David Smith said that he feels the Tulsa area location helps participants save gas by giving a closer alternative to Okmulgee, and lets them use those resources toward finding employment near their residence.

He believes that having faceto-face interaction also promotes a determination to become self-sufficient.

"I believe it gives them a better feel that somebody cares more about what they're doing and what they're needing help with," Smith said.

Croley celebrated her twoyear anniversary of being drug free Aug. 1. She transitioned off of TANF services in October, after maintaining employment for 12 months.

She believes that the program can help those in need or give them a chance to change their life.

"I feel like it can really happen for anybody. Someone who will be successful in changing their life is someone who's OK with taking suggestions from other people," Croley said. "That was the biggest thing that was hard for me that helped me the most."

The TANF mission is to increase self-sufficiency by breaking the cycle of dependence on welfare programs.

For more information about the MCN TANF Program, call: 918-732-7985 or visit: www. mcn-nsn.gov/Pages/TANF/tanfapp.html.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said self-determination and selfgovernance will be a guiding factor in the relationship between tribes and the U.S. government.

"We are committed to fully funding contract support costs so that tribal contracting will be more successful," Jewell said. "Today's announcement resolves

past claims and allows money wrapped up in litigation to be used more productively."

The Obama administration is seeking mandatory funding of support costs starting in FY 2017.

U.S. Rep. and Chickasaw Nation citizen Tom Cole issued a statement about the settlement.

"This is good news for the historically battered relationship between Indian Country

and the federal government. By reimbursing tribes who were short-changed in the past and ensuring proper compensation for those same contracts in the future, it symbolizes a United States that stays true to its word and fully honors the promises made to Native Americans," Cole said.

Golden said if tribes agree to the settlement, MCN could receive funds as early as next year.

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Muscogee (Creek) citizen thrives in martial arts



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jair Harjo does martial arts training with his father, Henry Harjo at their home in Edmond, Okla.

Harjo strives to become a ninja

Chelsie RIch/Project Specialist

EDMOND, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jair Harjo won first place in Yu Sin/forms and third in sparring for the Black Belt Division Ages 8–10 at the State Games of American Competition Aug. 1 in Omaha, Neb.

Jair is a nine-year-old fourth grader at Heritage Elementary in Edmond and resides in Edmond with his parents Henry and Rachelle Harjo and sister Jessica.

At a young age, Jair has already made many accomplishments.

Along with his recent victories, Jair also holds the titles of 2014 Oklahoma Karate Association State Champion, 2014 Oklahoma Sooner State Games Champion and is a Dan First Degree Black Belt.

"I just started watching movies like the 'Karate Kid' and it made me interested in being a ninja," Jair said.

Jair started participating in the martial arts style of Tae Kwan Do at the age of four when his father introduced it to him.

Ninja Warrior, "Jair said.

Jair also participates in ball, baseball, basketball junior open water scuba

Henry participated in martial arts as a child and wanted

to share the experience with his son.

"We used to do Karate when we were young... it's one of the things that teaches you discipline," Henry said.

Jair trains at Compact Karate but also has his own workout room at his house where his father trains him.

"He's accustomed to doing 80-100 push ups a day and when he got ready for his black belt, he wound up doing over 500," Henry said. "I think that there's a lot of exercise and a lot of constitutionality about our children that through exercise and movement, it helps."

Jair is now training in martial arts weaponry and hopes one day to become a ninja.

"I feel like the ninja is the top goal that I really want to be because I practice it at home and sneak around," Jair said.

Jair also shared another one of his goals he hopes to accomplish.

"I love obstacles and I feel like I really want to go on 'American Ninja Warrior,' " Jair said.

Jair also participates in football, baseball, basketball, is a junior open water scuba diver and a member of the Comanche Man Dance Society.

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

funding depending on projected need and/or availability.

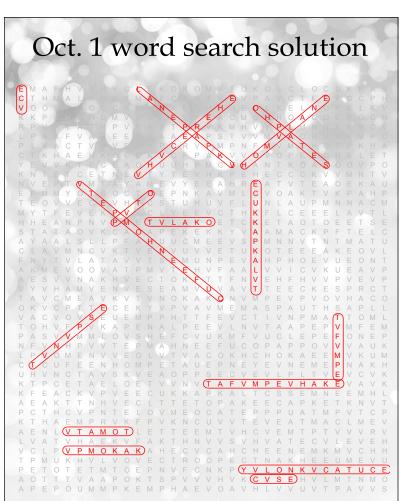
The special revenue funds coming from federal agencies and the employee incentive are approved at 100 percent.

The insurance budget for Risk Management, Challenge Bowl, Council Oak Ceremony, Hall of Fame Gala, Euchee Heritage Festival and Pink Party are approved at 100 percent of the FY 2015 budget.

Client Services; Gaming Division software/licenses and

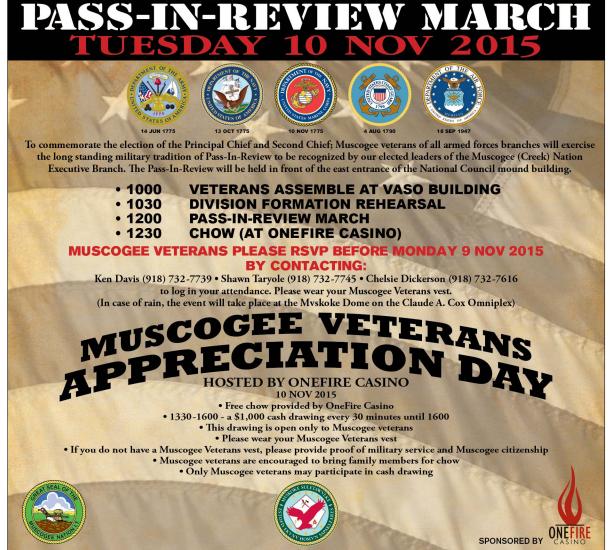
equipment; the emergency scholarship fund; the Higher Education Department grants and scholarships as well as special academic assistance, are approved at 50 percent of the FY 2015 budget.

Special appropriations established by law except for the tribal events listed above; the Tobacco Prevention Program; Juvenile Justice Program; Community Research and Development, Euchee Language and Information Technology Departments as well as all other operational costs are approved at 25 percent of the FY 2015 budget.











Hot Seat Blitz Drawings

Ten (10) - \$10 Free Play drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes beginning at NOON and ending at 5:00PM.

Halloween Costume Contest

5:00PM

1st Place - \$1,000

2nd Place - \$750

3rd Place - \$500

4th Place - \$250

5th Place - \$100

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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nation News coverage on page six of the Sept. 15 edition.

A veto message issued by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger outlined his objections.

The first objection stated that the legislation lacked supporting financial documentation to outline reasonable funding amounts given to the communities based on their membership and/or degree of services.

The second stated that the bill also lacked an impact study to determine how the proposed changes would affect the future economic development of the communities, arguing that said impact would be negative.

The third states that there was not any input from the communities regarding the legislation.

The final objection says there were 19 communities that attended a meeting regarding the bill and after discussing it, three were in favor of the bill while 16 were against it, requesting that the bill be vetoed.

The override failed 10-5 with Reps. Shirlene Ade, Frank Coachman, David Hill, Robert Hufft and David Nichols voting against it.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the follow legislation:

• TR 15-157 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a business application for registration with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs between MCN and the State of Oklahoma for the MCN Department of Health pharmacies. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed

MCNDH operates several pharmacies within MCN and periodic renewal of licensure with OBN is required in order to continue doing so.

an application for certification between MCNDH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

lab facilities within MCN and periodic certification renewal through HHS is required in order to continue doing so.

• TR 15-159 Approving the terms of settlement and authorizing the principal chief to execute a settlement agreement and mutual release regarding a lawsuit involving interests of the MCN Medical Center pending in Okmulgee County District Court. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The resolution authorizes a settlement between MCN and a former employee of Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

When MCN acquired OMH (now MCN Medical Center) it took on certain existing liabilities including a pending lawsuit filed by former OMH Chief Financial Officer Paul Ervin.

The suit claims that upon the end of Ervin's employment, OMH refused, without justification, to pay him the salary continuance outlined in an employee severance agreement between him and the hospital.

Ervin also filed for money damages including attorney costs, on a breach of contract theory.

The Council agreed to the terms of the settlement (which can be found under NCA 15-212 below) without admission of liability and/or guilt and authorizes the principal chief to execute it on behalf of MCN.

• TR 15-160 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an interagency agreement for the use of space with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH uses space on the OSUIT campus to provide services and needs to renew an agreement to continue doing

TR 15-161 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma for cooperative tribal monitoring and support with regard to the Magellan L.P. Pipeline Project in Sebastian, White, Lonoke and Pulaski Counties, Ark. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.

The pipeline intersects with the MCN Trail of Tears route and the agreement reflects a joint effort among the tribes to preserve potential historic sites pertinent to each of them.

According to an email provided by Deere, the tribes have decided to cancel negotiations with the pipeline due to a change in the stipulations usually outlined for negotiations with them. The tribes are working on a formal complaint to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

• TR 15-162 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among Indian Health Services, • TR 15-158 Authorizing MCN and the Checotah Public the principal chief to execute Works Authority for wastewater disposal facilities for Indian owned homes within the City of Checotah. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement allows the MCNDH operates several U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and IHS, through MCN, to help fund improvements performed by Checotah PWA to wastewater disposal facilities, operated by PWA that serve Indian homes in the area.

> • TR 15-163 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and IHS for the construction, improvement and installation of satisfactory domestic water supply and adequate wastewater disposal facilities for 23 Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

> IHS and MCN wish to install and improve water facilities to 23 Indian homes in these areas with IHS providing \$396,000 for the labor, materials, connection fees, equipment and supplies with MCN acting on a consolatory basis for legal and technical aspects related to the

> • TR 15-164 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a standard form of agreement with I-5 Design and Manufacturing Inc. for renovations to the Eufaula Casi-

no. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

GOAB is responsible for casino operations and must receive approval from the Council for work in excess of \$50,000 to real property.

The board has determined that the casino is in need of renovations due to its dilapidated structure, poor working conditions and outdated interior that is not aesthetically pleasing to customers and has chosen I-5 for the interior renovations.

• TR 15-165 Confirming the nomination of Blue Clark to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

MCN law requires an appointment by the principal chief to the board and Tiger has chosen Clark. View his profile on the Oklahoma City University School of Law website here: http://law.okcu. edu/?about=faculty/clark-c-

 TR 15-166 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among IHS, MCN and the City of Wetumka for satisfactory wastewater disposal facilities for Indian owned homes in the City of Wetumka, Hughes County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and IHS, through MCN, to help fund improvements performed by Wetumka to wastewater disposal facilities, operated by the city that serve Indian homes in the area.

• TR 15-167 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among IHS, MCN and the Weleetka Public Works Authority for satisfactory domestic water supply facilities for Indian owned homes in Okfuskee County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement allows IHS, through MCN, to help fund improvements performed by Weleetka PWA to wastewater disposal facilities, operated by PWA that serve 98 Indian homes in the area.

• TR 15-168 Authorizing the principal chief to execute network participation agreements with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma on behalf of MCNDH. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

MCNDH wishes to recover costs associated with providing services to citizens covered under BCBSOK health insurance plans and said agreements would allow them to do so.

• TR 15-169 Authorizing GOAB to execute a Blue Cross Blue Shield business associate agreement, affiliated ancillary documents related to the agreement and approve the stop loss policy. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

GOAB seeks approval to provide BCBS health benefits to all casino employees stating that it is the best for them and will also save the facilities \$1-2 million in the first year.

• TR 15-170 Amending TR 12-072 (Authorizing the Nation to borrow \$14,785,000 from the permanent fund to be used toward the purchase of RiverWalk Crossing Development and for incidentals and improvements). Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The proposed FY 2016 budget has a shortfall, creating a need to defer the payment this year to the permanent fund for the purchase of RiverWalk.

• NCA 15-203 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizens Marie Faubion and Lizzie Lowe qualified to compete in the National Indian Taco Championship in Pawhuska and request financial assistance for expenses involved in doing

 NCA 15-209 Authorizing a \$2,859 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizen Logan Holt wishes to participate in an Education First Tour of the Britannia with his English teacher, which includes a number of cities in Scotland, Ireland and England and requests financial assistance to do so.

• NCA 15-210 Authorizing a \$148.03 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizen Abbigale Green participates in basketball and golf at Henryetta High School. Her father Keith Green requests assistance to purchase a letter jacket for her.

• NCA 15-211 Authorizing a \$207.27 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizen Lillian Butler is a cheerleader for the Stroud Tigers third and fourth grade peewee football team and her parents request financial assistance to purchase a uniform for

• NCA 15-212 Appropriating \$60,000 to be used for funding the settlement agreement and mutual release regarding a lawsuit involving interests of the MCN Medical Center pending in Okmulgee County District Court. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-2 with Reps. Tiger and Nichols voting against it.

The appropriation funds the settlement agreement outlined in TR 15-159 listed above.

 NCA 15-213 Authorizing a \$750 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizens Mariah and MaKayla Johnson are sisters who play in the Shawnee High School band and seek financial assistance to participate in the You're Instrumental! Disney Performing Arts Workshop in Orlando, Fla.

• NCA 15-214 Authorizing a \$450 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored amendment, which passed 14-0.

Ian Deo plays trombone in the Beggs Band of Demons at Beggs Middle School and seeks financial assistance to play at the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

• NCA 15-215 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

TTP wishes to modify its FY 2013 budget to reallocate certain excess funds for other expenses.

• NCA 15-216 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for MCN TTP. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

TTP wishes to modify its FY 2014 budget to reallocate cer-

tain excess funds for other expenses.

• NCA 15-217 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizens Sierra Annalee and Delanee Lynn Denney play soccer and request financial assistance for the 2015-2016 season.

• NCA 15-218 Creating new law to establish an independent media and to provide protections for the independent media and editorial board in Title 49 and amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated Title 16, Section 1-102 J., titled, 'Mvskoke Media' and K., titled 'Independent Statutory Executive Agencies' and MCNCA Title 37, Section 2-204 titled, 'Communications Department Revolving Account' and repealing MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 5, Subchapter 1, titled 'Communication Services.' Reps. Thomas Yahola, Pete Beaver, Johnnie Greene, Nichols, Barnett, Deere, Coachman, Randolph, Tiger, Hill, Hufft, Jennings and Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The law removes the department from directly under the executive branch in the organizational chart and makes it an independent statutory executive agency.

A three person board will be solely responsible for the employment status of the manager with the manager solely responsible for said status of the employees in accordance with the board's policies, which they will outline once nominated.

Each board member will be nominated for governmental approval with one selected by the executive branch, one by the legislative branch and one by Mvskoke Media. None of theses members can be employees of any of the three nominating parties.

The board members will have three-year terms that will be staggered for continuity.

The board and staff are forbidden from governmental influence in their professional capacities.

The board members must certify that they will adhere to the accepted ethics outlined by the Society of Professional Journalists and the Native American Journalist Associa-

Two members must be Muscogee (Creek) citizens. One must have a background in tribal law. Two must have a background in the journalism field or one must have experience in journalism and one must have graphic design and printing experience.

The deadline to have the board in place is Jan. 1, 2016.

No staff member will be compelled to reveal a source in a judicial proceeding unless a complainant shows through clear in convincing evidence, that the source is relevant to a significant issue and said source could not be obtained by alternate means.

This protection also does not apply to allegedly defamatory information for issues such as slander or libel addressed in a civil suit.

• NCA 15-219 Amending MCNCA Title 19, Section

Council - 7

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

2-107 titled, 'Maintenance of Records.' Rep. Tiger sponsored amendment, which passed 14-

This law states that all public officials and candidates should be entitled to the names and addresses of registered voters except for those who expressly ask the MCN Election Board to keep them private.

• NCA 15-220 Authorizing the expenditure of \$2.75 million MCNDH investment funds for the purchase of medical equipment, operations and facility renovations and improvements for the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center, MCN Medical Center and the Creek Nation Community Hospital. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH has a third party investment account and would like to expend from it to pay for medical equipment, operations and facility renovations and improvements for the three facilities.

• NCA 15-222 Amending NCA 13-227 (Authorizing a special appropriation to the Wilson Indian Community). Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

The Council previously appropriated funds for the community to construct an activity center and recreational equipment for it. The construction is not finished and therefore the money needs to be carried over to FY 2016.

The upcoming quarterly session is scheduled Oct. 31.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc. com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www. creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If he neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Citizen interns in Washington, D.C.



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cody Minyard interned for U.S. Sen. Al Franken this summer through the Native American Political Leadership Program in Washington, D.C.

Minyard gains experience at U.S. capitol

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

NORMAN, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cody Minyard interned for U.S. Sen. Al Franken this summer through the Native American Political Leadership Program in Washington, D.C.

Minyard, a 20-year-old junior at the University of Oklahoma, is in the Honors College with a 3.6 GPA majoring in political science with a concentration in elections and campaigns.

According to the Semester in Washington website, NAPLP is a full scholarship program designed to give Native American

undergraduate and graduate students the chance to participate in the Semester in Washington Politics program.

"They find places throughout D.C. to set up Native American students in the realm of Indian Affairs, whether that be on Capitol Hill or an agency; just anything to help our tribe," Minyard said.

Through the program, Minyard was able to take six hours of coursework at George Washington University, live on campus and receive stipends for books and living expenses as well as a round-trip airfare ticket to and from Washington, D.C.

"I was an intern for U.S. Senator Al Franken from Minnesota," Minyard said. "Minnesota has 11 different Native American tribes, which is why I was set up with a U.S. senator."

The program helped Minyard get in contact with Franken to interview for the internship.

Minyard performed basic internship duties such as answering phones, emails and mail but also got to experience other aspects.

"I personally had to do the Indian Affairs section where I attended briefings, hearings; met with the Department of Interior," Minyard said. "Just a lot of different things in the realm of Indian Affairs."

Minyard spoke about how being Native American helped him connect with others in the program and gave him a diverse outlook on situations.

"You have a different perspective than what other people do of the things going on around you, whether it be in Oklahoma or D.C. or wherever you're at in the nation. I am very humbled to be part of Creek Nation," Minyard said.

Minyard shared one of his goals.

"Just anyway I can help give back to the tribe... people that's helped me, whether it be the Henryetta community, my family, my teachers, my friends, just try to help people anyway I can," Minyard said.

Minyard shared his post graduation plans.

"I plan to go to law school, whether it be here at OU Law or in the D.C. area, either in constitutional law or Native American law," Minyard said.

He is a 2013 graduate of Henryetta High School and is the son of Terry and Debbie Minyard of Henryetta.



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). \$200 compensation (\$100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is** conducting a University of Tulsa IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators: Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys

or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

SALLIE WISE



HANNA, Okla. — Sallie Mae Wise went home Aug. 27, 2015. She was born July 2, 1944 in Hanna to Samuel C. Scott and Mandy Brown Scott. She was raised in Hanna and attended Eufaula Boarding School and Franklin High School in Oklahoma City. She was a member of Hillabee Indian Baptist Church in Hanna and enjoyed fellowship with family and friends.

She was fluent in the Mvskoke language and enjoyed talking with others.

She loved her Creek hymns, oil art painting as well as arts and crafts plus being a good cook and going to the casino. She worked as a nurse aide and various other jobs.

She was preceded in death by her: parents, husband Leo Wise; son George Lee Scott; granddaughters Loska and Apella Bowers and siblings, Elizabeth Meely, George Lee Scott, Wilson Scott, Mabel Scott, Randolph Scott and Billy Don Scott and Anthony George Scott.

She is survived by her: children, Bobby Brown, Elmer Brown and Una Michelle Brown; grandchildren Noshoba and Netta Brown and Georgia Harjo, Michelee Bowers; great-grandchild; sisters, Minnie Wauqua and husband Wayne of Holdenville and Ester Factor of Talequah; brother Jim (Tata) Wallace of Oklahoma City; sister-in-law, Leah Scott of Oklahoma City; several nephews and nieces; great-nephews and great-nieces; too many cousins to name, each of whom she loved very much and our only uncle Turner Scott and Aunt Jerri, who she loved dearly and talked of him with respect due to elders.

Funeral services were Aug. 31 at Hanna Indian Community Center with Jacob Jackson officiating with several ministers, Charles Mitchell and Kelly Tiger, Newman Crow and others in attendance. Interment was at Hillabee Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank everyone who helped prepare food, did all that needed to be done and sent flowers.

Sallie was very traditional in her old ways and we will miss her very much. We thank you very much for all the assistance, which made it possible for our sister.

Thank you for the use of Hanna Indian Community Building, which we appreciated very much. We thank Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town and Muscogee (Creek) Nation for burial assistance and the MCN Lighthorse escort. We appreciate Williamson-Spradlin Funeral home for their services. To the members of Ueokofke Church who opened and was waiting for her arrival, the family thanks you. She was very respectful of the church and the way she was raised. We all loved her and will miss her very much.

MVTO

JUANITA YAHOLA



MIRAMAR, Fla. — Juanita Christine Deer Yahola passed away Sept. 29, 2015 at Memorial Hospital in Miramar, Fla., at the age of 92.

Juanita was born July 24, 1923 near Wetumka, Okla., to Alfred and Munna Deer and was raised in the Wewoka area. Juanita attended Butner School until 1943.

Photography was more than a Hobby to Jaunita it was her passion

She enjoyed Big Band Music, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and the Dorsey Brothers, a smooth dancer!

When World War II was declared, she entered the workforce at Douglas Airfield, our own Rosie The Riveter.

After the war she married U.S. Army Veteran Sam Yahola in 1946 at The Little Quarsarty Indian Baptist Church near Cromwell, Okla.

A brief separation occurred when Sam Yahola was activated with the 45th Division on September 1950 until October 1951.

In 1951, the Yahola family relocated to Chicago where Sam was employed with the U.S. Postal Service.

Acquiring a transfer, they moved back to Oklahoma in 1963. Juanita returned to the workforce in the food service industry and as a nurse's aide.

After suffering a stroke in 1969, Juanita didn't return to the workforce. Sam Yahola passed away Oct. 23, 1979 after working over 25 years with USPS.

In 2008, Juanita went to live with her daughter, Sandra Friday in Clewiston, Fla., until her death.

Juanita Yahola will always be remembered as a wonderful spouse, mother and a person with a smile and a kind word for

She is preceded in death by her: parents, husband and nu-

merous other relatives.
She is survived by: children,
Sandra Friday of Clewiston, John
Yahola of Wewoka, Sam Yahola
Jr. of Wewoka, Roman and Sue
Yahola of Okemah, Okla., Jonathan Yahola of Okemah, Barry
and Ilene Yahola of Tulsa, Okla.
and numerous other relatives.

very much for all the assistance, A wake service was held Oct. which made it possible for our sister.

A wake service was held Oct. 4 at Little Quarsarty Baptist Church in Cromwell, Okla.

A funeral service was held Oct. 5 at Little Quarsarty Baptist Church and burial followed at the church cemetery.

Services were under the direction of Stout Phillips Funeral Home in Wewoka.

An Online Guestbook is available at: PhillipsFuneralService.com



*				-	N RESULTS		
	Mu	scogee (Cre	ek) Nation P	rimary -	September 19, 2015		
	PRINCIPAL CHIEF				SEAL		
1	JAMES FLOYD	1,282	27.18%		Sept Of the sept o	À	
2	GEORGE TIGER	1,179	25.00%			N	
3	ADAM JONES III	848	17.98%				
4	DAVID NICHOLS	804	17.05%		Egg 10th	7	
5	THOMAS YAHOLA	603	12.79%		OGEE NAT		
		NATI	ONAL COU	NCIL DE	ELEGATES:		
	Creek District - Seat A				Tulsa District - Seat A		
1	DAVID W. HILL	3,278	74.25%	1	ROBERT L. HUFFT	1,396	31.05%
2	TONY L. BELL	1,137	25.75%	2	ALEXIS BIBLE CROSLEY	710	15.79%
				3	SAM ALEXANDER	669	14.88%
	McIntosh District - Seat A			4	ALVIN L. BUCKTROT	558	12.41%
1	DARRELL PROCTOR	1,779	39.31%	5	RODNEY JOSIE	486	10.81%
2	SHARON WYATT ROSE	1,294	28.60%	6	ELEANOR I. VAN BUSKIRK	414	9.21%
3	TOM PICKERING	893	19.73%	7	DARRIN K. BELL	263	5.85%
4	WILSON L. BEAR	559	12.35%				
					Tukvpvtce District - Seat A		
	Okfuskee District - Seat A			1	SHIRLENE M. ADE	1,028	22.90%
1	RANDALL HICKS	1,216	27.08%	2	RUFUS SCOTT	850	18.93%
2	FRANKLIN COACHMAN	1,124	25.03%	3	EDWIN MARSHALL	773	17.22%
3	LENA LEE WIND	982	21.87%	4	DAVID JIMBOY	747	16.64%
4	CAROL EUGENIA TIGER	696	15.50%	5	SAM GENE WHITLOW	699	15.57%
5	ARLENE DAVIS	473	10.53%	6	CHRIS POWELL	393	8.75%
	Okmulgee District - Seat A				Wagoner District - Seat A		
1	DEL VINCE BEAVER	1,013	22.40%	1	JOHNNIE CHALAKEE GREENE	2,210	50.24%
2	NELSON SCOTT HARJO	797	17.62%	2	TIMOTHY A. JACKSON JR	2,189	49.76%
3	GROVER D. WIND	651	14.40%				
4	PEARL CHALAKEE THOMAS	609	13.47%		WINTSYS. VANIL		
5	SANDRA PETERS	543	12.01%		ARY PARY		
6	DEAN WILLIAMS	495	10.95%		The spirit	E Rot	5. 8 11
7	HAZEL GRACE BUNNER	414	9.16%		No. 15006367 EXP. 6/05/2019 IN AND	E SU	oy 8.0

MOVIES IN THE DOME SET FOR OCT. 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department has scheduled a free showing of 'Monsters Inc.' 6:30 p.m., Oct. 22 at the Myskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

All are welcome and concessions will be available. For more information call: 918-732-7992.

HARVEST DINNER SET FOR OCT. 24

MORRIS, Okla. — Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church has set a harvest dinner for Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Plates are \$8 per person. For more information call Bernadette Whitlow at: 918-759-7020.

TCIC FALL FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 30

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a Fall Festival for Oct. 30 from 6-9 p.m.

All living within the TCIC are invited.

For more information call: 918-298-2464.

ZUMBA COMING TO MCN COMMUNITIES

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Zumba classes taught by Julie Bryant are scheduled: 11 a.m., Oct. 22 in Okmulgee and 1 p.m. in Dewar and 11 a.m., Nov. 5 in Sapulpa and 1 p.m. in Bristow.

For more information including further dates, call Bryant at: 918-895-3492.

CAREER EXPO SET FOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has set the third annual Education and Career Expo for 8 a.m., Nov. 5 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

For more information call MCN ET at: 918-732-7600.

INTER-TRIBAL PRAYER DAY SET FOR NOV. 7

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The second annual Inter-Tribal Prayer Day is set for Nov. 7 at the Sequoyah High School cafeteria in Tahlequah from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information call Better Pulver at: 918-282-9381.



HEALTHY FOODS BUILD HAPPY FAMILIES

Locations

Glenpool Eufaula Okemah Okmulgee Broken Arrow Coweta Sapulpa Seminole Shawnee

Stroud Tulsa Wetumka

For an appointment please call 918-549-2790 or 1-800-648-2302
You do not have to be Native American to apply for our program.

Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.





#MCNVOTE2015

Walking in Lucy's shoes - A tale of love turns violent — Page 6

A Myskoke Media production - The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

MUSCOGEE NATION R

MCN represented at **AARP** ceremony

Citizens recognized at Indian elders event

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY Over 50 Indian elder honorees from 30 Oklahoma tribes and Nations were recognized Oct. 6 during the seventh annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

"The common thread among these honorees is the wisdom and impact they have had on their tribes, family and community," said AARP Oklahoma State President Joe Ann Vermillion. "Tonight, in this place, as Oklahoma tribes and Nations join together in a spirit of harmony and peace, we reflect and give thanks for the lives they have lived and the innumerable ways they have passed on their legacies to future generations."

According to AARP Oklahoma State President Joe Ann Vermillion, AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors is the largest occasion of its kind, bringing all tribes from throughout Oklahoma to-

AARP - 2

Three citizens recognized during 2015 **Hall of Fame**



Muscogee (Creek) citizens Jerome Tiger, Chebon Dacon and Sarah Deer were inducted into the 2015 Mvskoke Hall of Fame Oct. 17 during the benefit gala at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

Gala proceeds benefit Scholarship Foundation, Festival

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Guests posed for photos on the red carpet while live harp music added ambience Oct. 17, during the Mvskoke Hall of Fame gala at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa to celebrate the induction of three Muscogee ceremonies. (Creek) citizens.

The black tie event hosted and special occasion when we HoF - 4

by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department, raised funds for the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation and the annual MCN Festival.

HESF awards scholarships to Muscogee (Creek) students seeking both graduate and under graduate degrees.

Tiger served as master of

"Welcome to a very momentous

honor those that have performed excellence and contributions to this great Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Chief Tiger said.

Chief Tiger explained the HOF recognizes individuals who have made contributions either to MCN or the quality of life for Native Americans.

"The inductees' achievements MCN Principal Chief George may be local, national or international in scope," Chief

Cultural Day hosted for Muscogee (Creek)



Chelsie Rich/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted their annual Cultural Day for Muscogee (Creek) youth to experience Mvskoke culture Oct. 9 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Office of Child Care hosts educational event

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Child Care hosted their annual Cultural Day for Muscogee (Creek) youth to experience Myskoke culture Oct. 9 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Every year, schools within the MCN jurisdiction that have Johnson O'Malley programs are invited to attend the

The day is designed to bring awareness to students who are

of Muscogee (Creek) or Native American descent that may not have the opportunity to engage in their culture on a regular basis.

"The children get a taste of everything about our culture that they maybe not get at home or at school. We want to have them be able to learn about our culture, the Mvskoke people," Child Care Assistant Manager/Financial Officer Newman Frank said.

Just like many other Muscogee (Creek) functions, the attendees were led in a prayer

Cultural - 3



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Children's author Michael Dahl presented to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start students and middle school students during a 'Meet the Author' event Oct. 9 at the Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

myON welcomes author to MCN

Dahl shares books, inspiration with students

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Literacy Program hosted a 'Meet the Author' event featuring children's author Michael Dahl Oct. 9 at the MCN Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

Dahl has written more than 200 books including the 'Dragonblood' series and 'Duck Goes Potty.' Mvskoke and Yuchi language translations are available for select titles via the myON app.

Dahl presented to Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start students and middle school students from the Johnson O'Malley Program.

Dahl said he has been interested in books and writing since about fifth grade.

"One of the best things about being a writer is you get to write about whatever you want," Dahl said.

Project Manager Randi Narcomey-Watson said Head Start teachers use Dahl's books in the classroom.

"A lot of those are talking about emotions, feelings and

myON - 3

CORRECTION

The General Election is Nov. 7

The date that ran in candidate profile section beginning with 'Muscogee Nation News' Aug. 1 edition had the date incorrectly listed as Nov. 2 —I regret this error.

Sterling Cosper/Editor

MCN celebrates new Citizenship Office in Jenks

Satellite location opens at RiverWalk

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

Okla. — The JENKS, Muscogee (Creek) Nation held a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 15 for the new MCN Citizenship Office at the RiverWalk business development in Jenks.

The satellite office will provide services for the Muscogee (Creek) citizens who live in and near Tulsa County. The northern part of MCN has over 16,000 citizens

"About 65 percent of the this area," MCN Citizenship Director Nathan Wilson said. "The numbers tell you that this is where a lot of our citizens are at so we need to be here for them."

will provide a This convenient location those in the area to enroll as Muscogee (Creek) citizens or renew their cards. Citizens are encouraged to update their information with the office and obtain the new citizenship card that is approved through the State of Oklahoma for identification purposes.

Principal Chief MCN George Tiger spoke about the day and what it means for the Nation.

"Our responsibility as a Nation is to reach out to our citizens, not the other way around," Tiger said. "A lot of our people make that drive to Okmulgee for our services and we need to make it easier for them."

MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett identified with the significance.

"As a mother of four, I remember having to take a whole day off of work to go to Okmulgee to get my kids' citizenship cards," Barnett said.

The offices officially opened Oct. 19. For more information about services, contact the Okmulgee office at: 918-732-7941 or the Jenks location at: 918-701-2611.

AARP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gether.

Out of the 50 honorees, seven were Muscogee (Creek), with some from the Kialegee, Alabama Quassarte and Thlopthlocco Tribal Towns.

The honorees were: Dorothy Burden, Leona Fish, Matilda King, Brenda Leftwich, Susie Martinez, Diane Moppin and Vada Foster Tiger Nichwander.

Fish from Tulsa spoke about her award.

"I can't explain the feeling; it was so wonderful," Fish said. "I never had anything happen to me such as this."

Fish, who has helped bring attention to issues affecting seniors and promoting tribal culture, felt that receiving this award with the others was an honor.

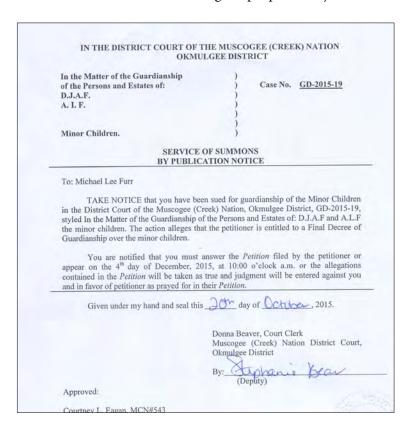
"I was in awe when they called my name, that I do not even remember the emcee reading my bio," laughs Fish. "Standing with everyone else, was a great pleasure because we all have done something that impacted our tribes."

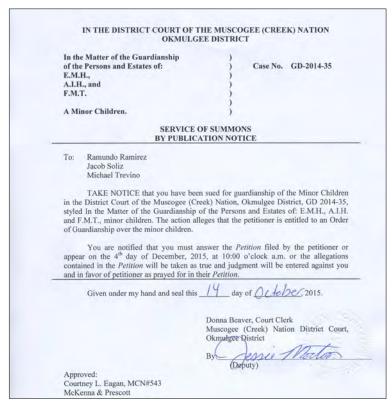
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Mashell Sourjohn who is the AARP associate state director of community outreach was happy with how the event turned out.

"This took a lot of preparation from everyone to get this ready," Sourjohn said. "It is very exhilarating from seeing the honorees who put the focus on everyone else finally get acknowledged for the great things that they have done."

Sourjohn enjoys helping with this event.

"We really look forward to this evening because it fills your soul seeing the smiles and hearing the applause for these great people." Sourjohn said.





Advocate discusses book, preventing violence against Native women



MNN File Photo

Deer set to release 'The Beginning and End of Rape'

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — This fall, award-winning author, lawyer, MacArthur Fellow winner and recent inductee into the Mvskoke Hall of Fame, Sarah Deer, completed her latest book to continue her campaign against the rape and abuse of Native American women.

'The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America' is being published by the University of Minnesota Press and is due out in November.

In an Oct. 7 interview on 'Mvskoke Radio,' Deer said, the reason she began this fight started early in her academic career.

"I think the issue found me. I was first really inspired by the women I met when I was a student at the University of Kansas. I was working at the rape crisis center there," Deer. "I had the chance to work with a number of women at Haskell (Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kan.). Women who had maybe been raped on campus, but also women who had maybe been raped in their homeland but never had a chance to get help for that."

Deer explained how this inspired her to move forward.

"Those women were instrumental in opening my eyes to the stark reality that Native women and men and children are facing in our communities with such high rates of abuse," she said. "So, those women inspired me to do that work and that providing direct services is something that is invaluable."

Members of American Indian communities have unique 'communal' relationships with each other; something that Deer said had some bearing on the problem but an Indian school like Haskell is no different than other colleges.

"First, I want to say that it's been over 20 years since I worked in Lawrence so it's quite possible that things have changed and improved," Deer said. "Haskell is really no different that any college campus in terms of the mentality of, sometimes, young men that think they are entitled to have sex. That would happen at the University of Kansas as well."

She broadened this issue to an intergenerational perspective.

"I think the difference for Haskell is that, that historical trauma that sort of carries into the lives of young people today is something that you can't put your finger on," Deer said. "But that history of trauma amplifies the problem really. It creates a system where they know that their mother was assaulted and nothing happened and their grandmother was assaulted and nothing happened and so forth."

This, she said, generates a hesitation to appeal to external agencies.

"So, the trust of the system, especially in Haskell where you would have to report to an outside police department, there's a real hesitancy to embrace that as a possible solution because it simply hasn't worked elsewhere," Deer said.

U.S. Department of Justice statistics show that American Indians are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races, and one in three Indian women reports having been raped during her lifetime.

Numbers like these, Deer said, are one reason why local efforts from people that a victim can trust are so important.

"If you do open up and you take that risk and you report somebody—maybe somebody important in your community, somebody with power, nothing good comes of it," she said. "So, what we really need to do for survivors is change that system and make sure we go back to our traditional values, which is to protect women and children, which is the primary goal of a tribal Nation."

Deer pointed to the work like that of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program as being a critical part of the solution.

"I think it's really difficult. We have so many assaults committed by family members and particularly powerful people in the community or people who may be ceremonial leaders or speak the language fluently—people who are held up with high esteem," she said. "The victims feel that no one will believe them if they come forward and they may be receiving backlash from the community."

Outlets like FVPP are working to remedy this she said.

"So what's really important is the kind of work that Shawn Partridge and the women at the Muscogee Nation Violence Prevention Program are doing, is to make sure there's confidential support for those women and girls so that if this does happen to them, they know they have a place to go to talk to," Deer said. "There's not going to be any pressure there to report because the advocate understands the risks that are taken there."

For victims, taking this step is still not simple she explained.

"To make that decision to come forward is a life-altering decision," she said. "It's a high burden to put on somebody who's already been traumatized."

The title of her book, Deer agreed, was intimidating.

"It's an intense topic. It's an intense title, pretty bold and it might actually scare some off from reading it," she said.

Its origin, she said, was from thinking about the first contact with colonizers.

"At the end of the book, I have a very positive outlook for what can happen in the future. So, the beginning of rape, in terms of Native women, I identify as coming from Europe," Deer said. "That is really when the concept and the crime was really introduced to our people. So, that's the beginning of rape."

Deer believes this can be remedied.

"The end of rape is something I think we can accomplish in a generation. There are certain things that need to be in place at the tribal level, the federal level, the state level, advocacy—all of those things that they're working together and they're working in the right way," she said. "I really believe that we could see and end to rape. That's why the book is titled, "The Beginning and End of Rape,' the story of how we can accomplish this."

'The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America' will be available in November 2015 from www.Amazon.com or the University of Minnesota website at: www.upress.umn.edu/bookdivision/books/the-beginning-and-end-of-rape.

MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND

arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST GARY FIFE

gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

DIRECTOR

CHRISTINA GOOD VOICE cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov



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JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

Citizen to manage Muskogee community smoke shop

Mutual benefits of deal touted

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee Creek Indian Community Smoke Shop has officially opened with new manage-

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Ronnie Boswell will manage and operate the smoke shop under a contract approved by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

The Council passed TR 15-151, authorizing MCIC to sign a contract for Boswell to operate and manage the smoke shop.

In the contract, Boswell agrees to pay MCIC \$1 per carton of merchandise purchased by the operation to be sold to custom-

The contribution to MCIC is not to be less than \$2,000 per

"Everybody should make money out of this deal, the way we set it up," Boswell said.

The smoke shop is located near State Highway 69.

According to statistics compiled by Retail Attractions Economic Development Consulting available at: www.visitmuskogee. com, the daily traffic count for State Highway 69 is 16,500 vehicles per day in 2012. Highway 69 links Interstate 44 and I-40.

According to RAEDC, major businesses reported that 60 percent of the sales conducted were from non-Muskogee residents.

Boswell has managed smoke shops and convenience stores for over 15 years.

"I think it'll be a wonderful opportunity for the community and the Creek Nation and all the citizens," Boswell said.

MCN Tax Commissioner Jerry McPeak said that he hopes business is good for Boswell, as it will be good for the Nation and the community as well.

"The community, without any investment and without any risk at all is guaranteed to make \$24,000, and that is bare minimum," McPeak said.

As an example, McPeak said that if the smoke shop sells 5,000 cartons of cigarettes per month, the Nation would make \$18,000 in tax revenue.

If the smoke shop simply breaks even, MCN will make \$80,000 in revenue and MCIC will make \$24,000.

"Everything that comes through the tax commission goes to the general fund," Mc-Peak said.

McPeak said that monies in the general fund can be used for programs and services as approved by MCN, unlike federal funds, which are earmarked for certain programs with specified

Boswell said he plans to carry more inventory and options so that he can handle a larger volume and accommodate more

Hours for the MCIC Smoke Shop are 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., seven days a week.

For more information call the smoke shop at: 918-687-6653 (SMOKE).

OKC community dedicates new center

New location to service citizens in state capital city

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association dedicated their new community center Oct. 16.

OCMA is the only one of the 26 Muscogee (Creek) chartered community centers located outside of the tribal boundaries and serves over 6,000 at-large Muscogee (Creek) citizens residing in the greater Oklahoma City metro

"I am one proud member today," OCMA member Sandra Dacon-Medrano said. "This is a day that we all are going to rejoice."

The dedication included recognition of MCN, State of Oklahoma and city elected officials, followed by a flag-raising ceremony by the Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard.

"I was working for Chief (Claude) Cox and he asked me to bring the very first check to this organization" MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "Seeing it from the infant stages to this is truly an enjoyment."

Tiger said that their last building was in a bad neighborhood so he felt one of the priorities during his term was to help them locate a new one.

"To dedicate this building today is kind of like a circle of life coming complete now," Tiger

He also said that OCMA is located north of the state capitol grounds and next door to the Chickasaw Nation Oklahoma City Area Office.

"Looking south from the OCMA community center, 'The Guardian' can be seen on top

of the capitol dome which is emblematic of how interwoven Muscogee people are to the State of Oklahoma's history and future." OCMA President Tresa Gouge said. "Former Senator and Chief of the Seminole Nation, Enoch Kelly Haney, who is also a Muscogee descendent, created this monumental tribute for all Oklahomans."

After the dedication ceremony, the community center gave tours of the facility during the open house, which featured Muscogee (Creek) artists, informational booths on social services, free flu shots and the MCN Citizenship Office and MCN Gift Shop were also rep-

The building is located at 4111 N. Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

For more information call Gouge at: 405-609-9261.

Beggs High School introduces Mvskoke language course



Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Lanissa Jack-Melton teaches the Beggs High School Myskoke language class.

Wilson Community dedicates new building

Members hope for more services, collaboration with MCN

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

Indian Community held a grand opening and dedication of their new community center, Oct. 20 at 88678 Chestnut Road in Hen-

"I am very proud of this community here at Wilson," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "It has been a long journey for them in so many ways."

WIC Chairperson Rita Williams said she is proud of what has been accomplished by the community and MCN.

"This dream started years and

years ago," WIC Chairperson Rita Williams said. "We wanted a building where our Native people, our Creek people could gather."

The new building will be used WILSON, Okla. — The Mus- for community meetings and cogee (Creek) Nation Wilson events, a social gathering place for youth along with satellite ac-

"We want to be able to collaborate with all the services from our tribe," Williams said.

After the dedication, the congregation were taken to view the new building and were served lunch. Several departments and programs from the MCN were on-hand to give out information on their services.

For more information on the new building and WIC, contact Rita Williams at: 918-759-1891.

Language offered for high school credit

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

Estonko? which means, "Hello, how are you?" in the Mvskoke language.

In an attempt to preserve the language, Beggs High School has added a

new class to their core curriculum.

Starting with the 2015 fall semester, the Mvskoke language is now

offered as a world language

Beggs High School Principal Chris Howk spoke about the addition.

"As a way to offer another opportunity in something different that they may not have ever seen of or heard of," Howk said. "For me as a principal, opportunity is what I'm all about."

There is one section of the class offered and it was closed early due to popularity, with 23 students enrolled.

"This is new for everybody so as we go, we'll learn. We'll come up with ideas. Find out what works, what doesn't work," Howk said. "I'm learning right along with them, especially having a program that I've never

be able to respectfully affiliate themselves with other

nationalities or the Muscogee (Creek)."

Beggs High School Mvskoke language instructor

Lanissa Jack-Melton

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and

"Muscogee (Creek) was my

fluent Mvskoke speaker Lanissa

Jack-Melton teaches the class.

first language," Melton said.

learn how to speak English."

enroll in the class.

I had to take speech classes to

Students do not have to be

"They're not actually going

Muscogee (Creek) citizens to

had."

cogee (Creek)," Melton said. Along with the language, Melton also teaches other aspects of the Myskoke culture.

"I teach them about where we come from, our clans, our

to come out fluent but it gives

them knowledge and ability to

greet or to be able to respect-

fully affiliate themselves with

other nationalities or the Mus-

kinship; who we They're not actually going to come out fluent but are and where we're it gives them knowledge and ability to greet or to at today," Melton

> Currently, Beggs and Glenpool High Schools are the

> only public schools that offer the Mvs-

koke language.

These schools have the only two certified teachers.

Those seeking certification must pass tests from the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program and afterwards, obtain further certification through the state.

For more information on becoming certified contact MLPP at: 918-732-7724.

CULTURAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Mvskoke hymn to start the

A demonstration stompdance was performed and the children were asked to join in.

"We have our ceremonial program that comes and does the stompdance for us; let the children know what the purpose of it is," Frank said.

Traditional foods were cooked over an open fire and samples were given to the children.

"We have some of the foods that our elders have passed onto us as we use in our families growing up," Frank said.

Ballstick making, belt weaving and pottery were some of the art demonstrations available to take part in.

Kristi Collington, Glenpool Public Schools Indian Education Director brought over 130 of her students to Cultural Day.

"We brought our Muscogee (Creek) language class, our Native American culture classes, our Native American Student Association from middle school and high school and our fifth grade Indian Ed students," Collington said.

Collington spoke about the

"I think it's not only important for our Creek students but also their peers to experience this so they can understand and appreciate the culture," Collington said. "We're just grateful Creek Nation has something like this to bring our students to."

For more information call the Office of Child care at: 918-732-

MYON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the kind of habits and things that you want a little child to learn how to do like brushing their teeth and the proper things to eat," Narcomey-Watson said.

This was the first time Dahl was invited to speak to a tribe.

Head Start children and presented photos and information about Minnesota where he lives.

During the middle school

presentation, Dahl spoke about in the library and got excited and inspiration.

ple when they want to create you can get a kid excited about something, all of those experi- reading, you can change his life." ences and ideas and memories it bumps around and collides the future. and merge and turn into other Dahl read a few books to the helps us come up with ideas."

He once received a letter from

different types of books, writing about them. And he started taking them out and sharing them "What happens with peo- with his brother," Dahl said. "If

Narcomey-Watson said she and stuff that happens to them, plans to have more speakers in

For more information about things," Dahl said. "That's what Michael Dahl visit: www.michaeldalhwrites.com.

For more information about the mother of a 10-year-old boy, the MCN Literacy Program who previously disliked reading. email Narcomey-Watson at:

"He found some of my books rnarcomey-watson@myon.com.

HOF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tiger said.

Artist Jerome Tiger was recognized posthumously.

Jerome Tiger's work is known nationally, although he never received formal artistic training. His art often depicted elements of traditional Muscogee (Creek) life.

Jerome Tiger's art can be

Dacon's artwork has been displayed nationally and internationally.

"Thank you everyone that is here tonight. I really appreciate you coming," Dacon said. "I don't know if I am deserving of it, but I sure am going to take it."

The last inductee of the evening



MNN/Amanda Rutland

Muscogee (Creek) artist Dana Tiger accepted an induction into the 2015 Mvskoke Hall of Fame on behalf of her father the late Jerome Tiger

viewed in Oklahoma at the Philbrook, Gilcrease and Five Civilized Tribes Museums or in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters.

Jerome Tiger's daughter, Dana Tiger accepted the award on his behalf.

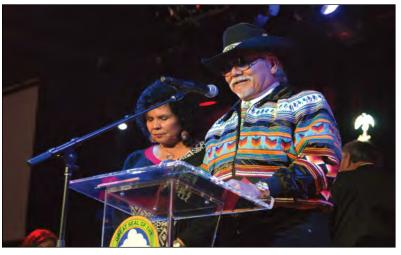
"I was just five-years-old when he passed away and he was a very young man," Dana Tiger said. "I

was Sarah Deer.

Deer has been an advocate for survivors of rape and domestic violence in Indian Country. She holds a juris-doctorate in tribal law from the University of Kansas School of Law.

Deer has completed a book titled, 'The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America' and has co-authored three tribal law textbooks.

Deer helped in the effort to pass



Muscogee (Creek) artist Chebon Dacon was inducted into the 2015 Mvskoke Hall of Fame.

would like you to know that even as great as his artwork was, his heart full of love for his family and his people was even greater than his talent for painting and sculpting."

Dana Tiger said she is thankful that her children are following in her father's footsteps to keep his legacy going.

Artist Chebon Dacon was also inducted.

Dacon was a promising athlete who played football for the University of Oklahoma until an injury stopped the advancement of his football career.

After leaving OU, Dacon participated in rodeos and powwows across the U.S.

"The door on my football career was closed, but I was blessed with the ability to draw. I found a different purpose in life," Dacon said in a previous interview.

the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2013, which helps protect Native women against domestic and sexual violence.

Deer gave most of her acceptance speech in the Mvskoke language.

"Thank you very much and thank you to my friends and family that came to support me today," Deer said.

Inductees received a 'Perpetual Blessings' Pendleton blanket and a HoF plaque.

For more information about the MCN Festival, contact the MCN Tourism and Recreation Department at: 918-732-7992, or visit: www.creektourism.com.

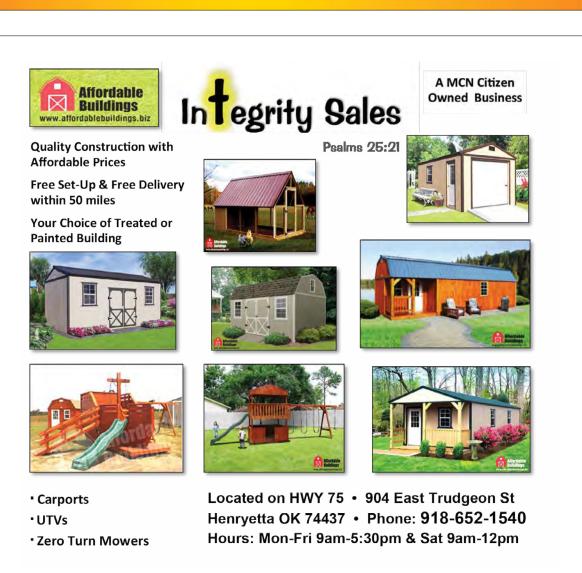
For more information about the MCN Higher Education Scholarship Foundation, contact: 918-732-7754, or visit: www. creeknationfoundation.org.

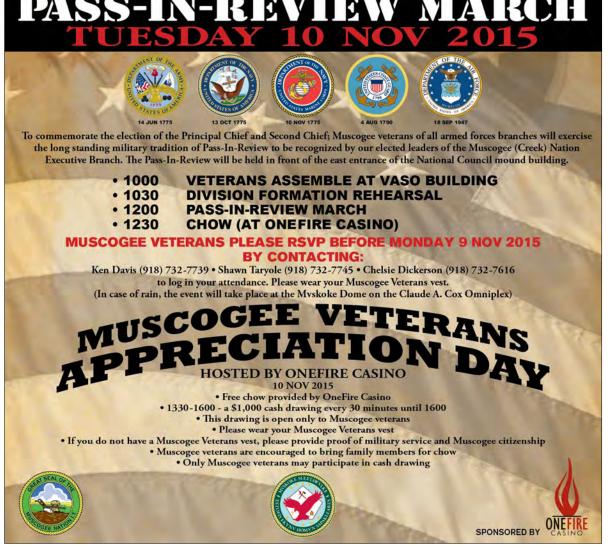


MNN/Amanda Rutland

Advocate for domestic and sexual violence survivors Sarah Deer was inducted into the 2015 Myskoke Hall of Fame.









3420 W. Peak Blvd. Muskogee OK 74401 Like us on Facebook! "MCNcasino" Follow us on twitter! "MCNcasino" www.creeknationcasino.net







helsie Rich/M

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program hosted the In Her Shoes event Oct. 13, to help Muscogee (Creek) citizens, professionals and the community understand the decisions each domestic violence victim is faced with.

Walking in Lucy's shoes

A tale of love turns violent

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — At the In Her Shoes event hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program Oct. 13, I slipped on the shoes of domestic violence victim Lucy and walked with her through her abusive relationship.

I was tasked with helping Lucy make decisions that would change her life forever.

At the age of 16, Lucy emigrated from Vietnam to the U.S. She met the man of her dreams while working in a flower shop.

Steve was kind and caring, carefully choosing flowers to give to his mother. He asked Lucy out on a date, and even offered to help her close the flower shop that evening so she could go to dinner.

He was romantic, a true American dream. Marriage and children soon followed.

One typical day when the kitchen pipes were leaking,

Lucy called in a plumber to fix the problem, which made Steve jealous. The jealousy turned physical and Lucy found herself beaten and bruised sitting at the

bottom of the stairs.

The plumber and witness to the incident shared domestic violence advocacy program information with Lucy, told her about a women's shelter that would allow her children to stay with her and even offered to let her live in his basement while she figured things out.

Lucy thanked him but turned down the offer. She sought guidance from her pastor.

The pastor told her that the abuse was a sin and that she should find help through the advocacy program.

While planning out what to do, Lucy went to live with her sister for a short period of time. It was great having someone to talk to and help with the children but they were crammed in the small apartment and Lucy felt like a burden.

She decided the best thing she could do was forgive Steve for

his abusive ways. That would be best for her children.

He welcomed her back with open arms and said that things would change.

That evening, Steve became violent again and began beating their son. Lucy knew she had to do something, so she grabbed the cast iron skillet from the kitchen and swung it towards her son's abuser.

Lucy was not strong enough. Steve grabbed the skillet and hit Lucy in the back. Luckily, the abuse stopped shortly after.

She called the police and they came to the house to take a report. Child Protective Services took the children from the home because of the abuse.

The next day, Lucy called an advocate to get some help. The advocate gave her what seemed to be hundreds of options and no advice for what she should do

Lucy felt lost. She called CPS and learned the only way to get her children back was to go through the court process. With no job or formal education, she was not sure where to turn for help.

She felt as if the only thing she could do was forgive Steve and go back home.

Steve was so excited to see Lucy. He told her that he would be happy to take her to a computer class that she had signed up for.

Again, that night Steve became violent and Lucy had nowhere to go. She waited until the morning when Steve went to work to call the police. But when the police arrived, they told Lucy that they could not help her because the abuse had happened more than four hours prior.

She called the advocacy program again and spoke with a

lady that was very helpful. Lucy knew that the road ahead would be full of difficult choices.

She went to a housing program and learned that she could get temporary housing for her and her children, but it would take some time to get the paperwork completed.

With the shelters full for the evening, Lucy was forced to go back home. She did not want to tell Steve her plans, in fear of provoking his abusive ways.

Steve was propelled to anger that evening by what seemed to be the smallest things.

Lucy attended court the next day for her protective order hearing. She could not afford a lawyer to plead her case, but the judge let her advocate sit beside her and hold her hand. It was comforting.

Lucy was surprised that the judge ruled in her favor. The judge said that she could have custody of her children and she was allowed to live in the house. Steve was to stay away from Lucy and the children.

Things were starting to look up for Lucy. She went to an employment agency to find a job.

Lucy was discouraged because she had not been able to complete her computer class, but the agency helped her apply for a job that she felt would fit her nicely.

It was only a short amount of time before the flower shop called and asked Lucy to fill the manager position.

Her story may be a combination of fiction and real scenarios but for 45 minutes, it was very real for me.

For that short amount of time, I played a domestic violence victim, carrying baggage with me everywhere I went, worrying about my children and symbolizing each abusive instance with

a Band-Aid.

I hoped Lucy's situation would improve after I left her side that day.

At the In Her Shoes event, I learned of other struggles she might endure. There might be divorce proceedings and counseling sessions for her and the children. I did not leave her at the end of this tragic process, but just the beginning of the road ahead.

Through the In Her Shoes exercise, I tried to help Lucy make the best decisions that she could make. I could only hope that those decisions would help her in the end.

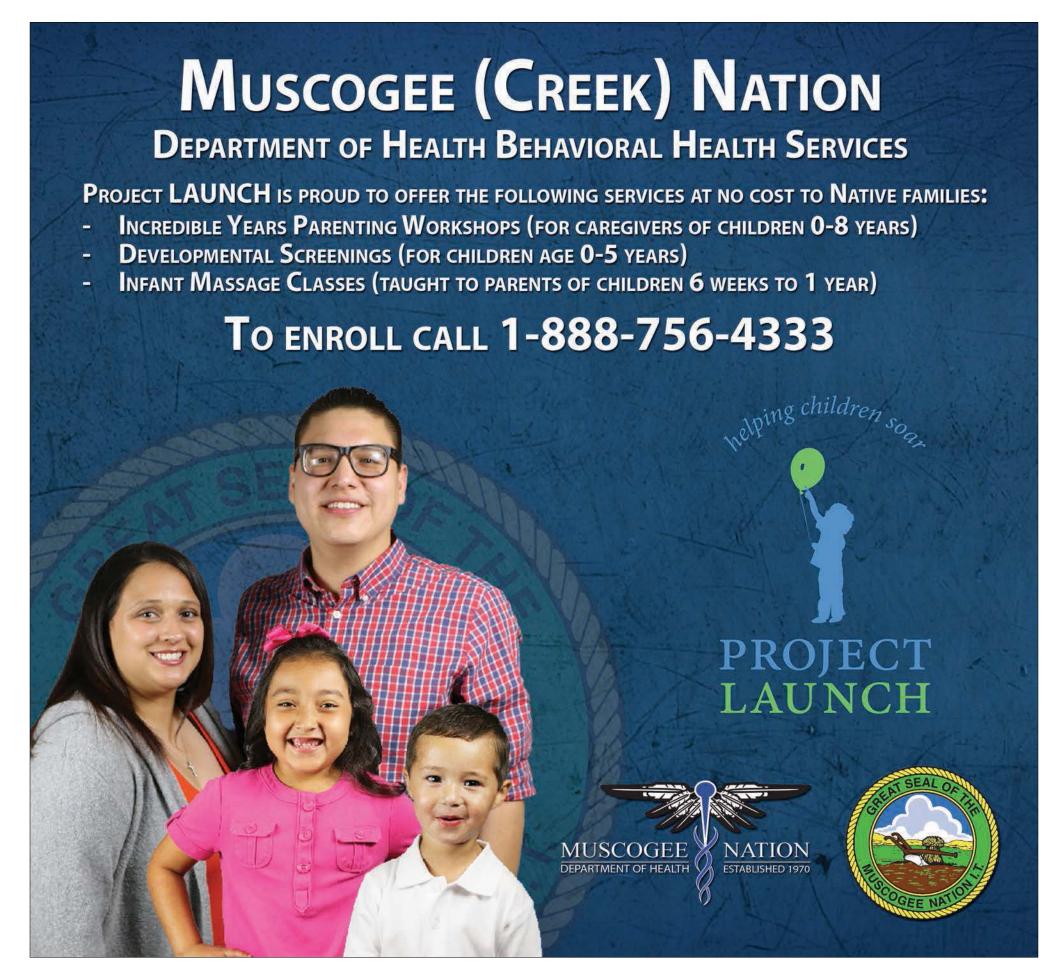
Decisions that seemed simple about where to turn to for help, or where she would sleep for the night became life altering and did not always play out how I thought or hoped.

In domestic violence situations, the community sometimes points the blame to the victim for returning to their abuser. As much as I did not want Lucy to return home, as abuse was inevitable, I realized that sometimes the choice she wanted to make was not always available.

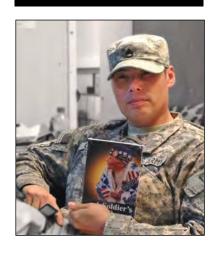
The process takes time, and plays out differently for each situation. Sometimes the outcome goes according to plan, and sometimes the outcome is not what is expected.

It is difficult to be able to know what is going through each victim's head and why they make the decisions they do, unless we slip on their shoes and see the situation through their eyes.

Those who are victims of domestic and sexual violence should call FVPP at: 918-732-7869 or to reach an on-call advocate after hours call the MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Department at: 918-732-7800.



MICHAEL KEITH COON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Staff Sergeant Michael Keith Coon was born June 23, 1982 to Michael Dennis Coon and Louise Bolin in Tulsa. He departed on his final journey Sept. 23, 2015 in El Paso, Texas.

Keith graduated from Jenks High School and attended Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee before enlisting in the U.S. Army. Like his grandfather and father before him, Keith was an infantryman. Together, they comprised three generations serving our great country.

Keith proudly served in the Army for 10 years, doing his basic training at Fort Benning. Keith's grandfather Phillip Coon was a Bataan Death March Survivor of World War II and his dad Michael Coon was an army paratrooper in the 18th Airborne Corp.

During his military career, Keith was stationed at Fort Irwin, Fort Riley and Fort Bliss. He was deployed in 2009 to Bayi, Iraq as a Machine Gunner A Co, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. In 2012, he was deployed to Ghazzi, Afghanistan as Infantry Team Leader A Co, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. In 2015, he served in Djibouti, Africa as Squad Leader A Co, 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment.

A decorated soldier, Keith received four Army/Commendation Medals, seven Army/ Achievement Medals, three Army/Good Conduct Medals, A National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Korea Defense Service Medal. He also received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal, Certificate of Achievement and Combat Infantry Badge.

Keith enjoyed sports. He loved playing baseball and football. He especially enjoyed watching his favorite football teams: the University of Oklahoma Sooners and Oakland Raiders. Keith participated in Tae Kwan Do at Kanga's and was a second-degree black belt. One of his favorite pastimes included playing video games for days with his brother Jeremy. Additionally, he loved grilling outside and spending time with family and friends.

A member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Cherokee Nation, Keith is survived by his: wife Megan and sons, Dalton, Nokose, and Wahaya Coon and stepdaughter, Kaydence Sproul; father, Michael Coon; brother, Jeremy Coon and sister-in-law, Jennifer; nieces he considered sisters, Summer, Autumn, Raven and Sky Herrod; cousin he considered a brother, Robert Coffey; numerous aunts and uncles, numerous nieces and nephews and brothers in arms.

Michael Keith was preceded in death by: mother, Louise

Waw; grandparents, Joe and Jennie Bolin, grandparents Helen and Phillip Coon and sister, Teri Lynn Herrod.

Pallbearers were his active military brothers.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Oklahoma State Rep. Mark Mc-Cullough, Comanche Chairman Wallace Coffey, Kenneth Taryole, Sonny Taryole, James Floyd, Bill Hill, Ron McIntosh, John Bolin, Larry Bolin, Tiger McIntosh and Tony McGill.

Interment was at Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

A trust fund for his boys has been set up at SpiritBank, 1315 E. Taft, Sapulpa, OK 74066. Their number is 918-227-5761 or 800-352-1171. Checks will need to be addressed to the Michael K Coon Memorial.

The family of Staff Sergeant Michael Keith Coon would like to thank Sergeant First Class (SFC) Berfreund and SFC Griffin, as well as Keith's brothers in arms, for helping us celebrate his life. We will cherish the memories of Keith that you shared with us. It was an honor to have you serve as pallbearers and help us lay Keith to rest. Thank you Fort Sill Burial Detail for the 21gun salute, playing of taps, and the folding and presentation of the flags. Words cannot express how much our family appreciates everyone who was involved in honoring Keith.

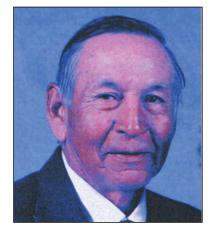
Thank you to Little Cussetah Baptist Church and Rev. Ray Samuels for your words of comfort on Wednesday evening for our hurting hearts. Myto to Rev. Steve Campbell and Rev. Jimmie Anderson for leading the service and reflecting on Keith's life. Mvto to MCN Principal Chief George Tiger for the reading of the obituary. Mvto to James Floyd for your thoughts and for sharing helpful contact information for loved ones in crisis situations. Thank you also to Native Praise for your beautiful songs that blessed our hearts.

Mvto MCN Honor Guard, Seminole Nation Honor Guard, Choctaw Nation Honor Guard and DAV Chapter 9 from Sapulpa for your final salutes. It was our honor to have all of you present. Thank you to First Baptist Church of Okmulgee for opening your doors to us and for the graciousness of your staff. The care extended in working with our schedule was most appreciated. Thanks to Belvin Baptist Church for opening your doors as well and for the nourishment you provided our bodies. It was delicious and you are always so sweet with your words.

Special thanks go out to Jennifer Taryole and the staff at MCN for printing our pamphlets for those in attendance. Thanks to Sherry Kast for helping us with writing all of the correct words.

Finally, we would like thank the Patriot Guard and MCN Lighthorse Police for escorting us to the various locations. We appreciate what you do for our country.

WILSON DEER



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Wilson Deere was born March 11, 1938 to Isaac and Selee Deere of

Okmulgee. He went to be with the Lord Oct. 3, 2015.

Wilson is survived by his wife, Louise of the home; daughter, Marcia Taylor and husband, Kyle of Muskogee; daughter, Tina Barnett and husband, Joe Jr. of Glenpool; grandchildren, Kyle S. Taylor and wife, Jana of Muskogee; Stephen, Christopher and John Taylor of Muskogee; Katie Barnett and Marcus of Tulsa; Corey Barnett and Crystal of Tulsa; great-grandchildren, Kyle Isaac Taylor; Cali, Caelyn and Colton Barnett; brother, Samuel Deere of Longview, Texas and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, Isaac and Selee Deere; brothers, Eunice and Tom as well as sister, Lula Mae.

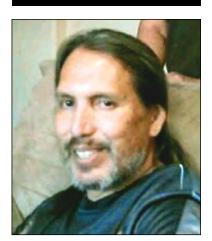
Pallbearers were: Tommy Deere, Robert Deere Jr., M. Tuffy Roberts, Terry Skipper Roberts, Rex Mosquito, Craig Mosquito, Marcus Barnett and Lance Gipson.

Honorary pallbearers were: Joe Barnett Jr., Raymond Lowe, Rusty Lowe, Robbie Roberts, Gary Pickett, Robert Deere Sr., Mac Rabbit, Troy Rabbit, Ronnie Proctor, Martin Proctor and Josh Pickett.

Family and friends may send online condolences at: www. smithfhs.com.

We would like to thank everyone for their support during this difficult time. –The Deere Family

MARK ELLIS



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mark Ray Ellis, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Oct. 14, 2015 at the age of 52. He was born July 6, 1963 to Kenneth John and Joan (Lacy) Ellis at the Claremore Indian Hospital. He was a graphic art designer and enjoyed carpentry, computers and astronomy.

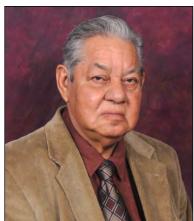
He is preceded in death by his father, Kenneth John Ellis.

Survivors include his: mother, Joan Ellis of Rose; sisters, Kim Ellis of Glenpool and Jennifer Coon and husband, Jeremy of Sapulpa and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Services were held Oct. 20 at the Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service with Pastor Daniel Wind, Sr. officiating. Visitation was held from 5-8 p.m. at the Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service. Arrangements are entrusted to Schaudt's Glenpool Funeral Service 719 E. 141st St., Glenpool.

Family and Friends may view the obituary and send condolences online at: www.schaudtfuneralservice.com.

KEEPER JOHNSON



MORRIS, Okla. — Keeper James Johnson Sr. age 76, resident of Morris died Oct. 16, 2015 in Tulsa.

He was born April 8, 1939 in Okmulgee to Harber and Betty (McHenry) Johnson. He graduated from Ft. Sill Indian School in Lawton in 1957. He attended Western Kentucky University earning a bachelor's degree in biology and Oklahoma State University receiving a master's degree in psychology. Keeper enlisted in the U.S. Army Dec. 17, 1961 and served until Dec. 17, 1964 receiving an honorable discharge.

He retired from the State of Oklahoma in Okmulgee as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for 25 years from 1967-1992. He served as a Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council representative of Okmulgee District Seat B for 14 years, 1999-2013.

He was preceded in death by his: parents, Harber and Betty (McHenry) Johnson; son, Jeffrey Linn Johnson; brothers, Cy Johnson and Richard (Bo) Johnson and sisters, Loretta (Dee) Sloan, Betty (Base) Neal, Patsy Wahnee and Carolyn (Babe) Niedo.

Survivors include his: wife of the home, Martha Johnson; sons, Keeper (Kip) Johnson Jr. and wife, Kim of Morris and Rojer (Bear) Washee Johnson of Morris; honorary daughter, Shari (Missy) Blackeagle of Lawton; brother, Hugh Ed Johnson of Norman; sisters, Dorothy Ticeahkie of Lawton, Charlene Nevaquaya of Lawton and Darlene Robertson of Oakland, Calif., as well as nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Visitation was Oct. 20 at Mc-Clendon Winters Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Wake Services were Oct. 20 at the Belvin Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Paul Maxey and Rev Eli McHenry officiating and continued at the home of Keeper and Martha Johnson in Morris.

Funeral services were Oct. 21 at First Baptist Church in Okmulgee with Rev. Paul Maxey and Rev. Bill Barnett officiating. Burial was in the Morris Cemetery. Pallbearers were: Rojer Johnson, Dallas Johnson, Brandyn Wahnee, Tyler Wahnee, Brooks Booker and Kepv Emvryle Johnson.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Jimmy Johnson, George Johnson, Tommy Wahnee, Steven (Bosco) Wahnee, Phil Booker and Jim Kerr.

Condolences can be made at www.Mcclendon-Winters.com.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION WIC PROGRAM

HEALTHY FOODS BUILD HAPPY FAMILIES

Locations

Glenpool Eufaula Okemah Okmulgee Broken Arrow Coweta Sapulpa Seminole Shawnee

Stroud Tulsa Wetumka

For an appointment please call 918-549-2790 or 1-800-648-2302 You do not have to be Native American to apply for our program.

Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.





Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

Fire danger is increasing in Oklahoma

BIA/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Fire danger is on the rise again across the state of Oklahoma. Dry weather, unusually hot temperatures and strong north winds have combined to make Oklahoma's forests and grasslands easily combustible. In addition, large fuel sources, such as big branches, logs, and downed trees from previous tornadoes and ice storms, are very dry inside and will burn with great intensity.

Keep in mind that dry vegetation – both living and dead – will burn readily under these conditions. Think before you act! Consider that the following objects and activities can start a wildfire, destroying homes, threatening lives and damaging our natural resources.

Cutting hay; hay bailers; pump jacks; welding, cutting or grinding; unattended debris burns; unattended campfires and charcoal grills; sparks from chainsaws; hot vehicle exhaust systems; tossed cigarettes and hot coals from wood burning stoves.

Caution: Notice to the public

If a wildfire occurs on your property, please stay clear of the burning area until it is safe to enter. Fire crews routinely conduct chainsaw operations, burnouts and back burns to gain control of the fire.

Sudden changes in wind direction along with wind gusts occur creating extreme fire behavior also making hazard trees extremely dangerous to persons below. Heavy smoke on roadways limit visibility, creating driving hazards for firefighters and the public. Entering a wildfire area places you and firefighters at risk to serious injury and possibly death. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact the IC (incident commander) or PIO (public information officer) of that incident.

If you see a wildfire on or near Indian lands please contact your local fire department at 911 and a number below for immediate assistance.

Bureau of Indian Affairs fire management can be reached at: 918-752-7397 or 918-752-7340.

Also effective immediately! The Bureau of Indian Affairs has implemented a burn permit system in effect for all of Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction. A BIA Burn Permit is needed on lands held in trust or restricted status by the United States of America and under the jurisdiction of the Okmulgee Agency.

The burn permit application can be picked up at all MCN Indian community centers, the Alabama, Kialegee and Thlopthlocco Tribal Towns and the Okmulgee agency fire building located at 1006 Eufaula St., Okmulgee.

- Mvto

Charlie Harley, Range Technician Wildfire Prevention, Bureau of Indian Affairs Okmulgee Agency: 918-752-0657

Moving to Indian Territory, a lifetime of research

Muscogee (Creek) citizen release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) tribal history and culture was revealed after a lifetime of research into her McIntosh ancestors by author Billie Jane McIntosh.

Her second book about the life of Chilly McIntosh who moved from Georgia to Indian Territory in 1827 was published by American History Press in 2008.

The Muscogee (Creek) author has a limited number of copies she will sign and mail to other citizens.

'From Georgia Tragedy To Oklahoma Frontier, A Biography of Scots Creek'

'Indian Chief Chilly Mc-Intosh' details Muscogee (Creek) tribal history, culture, religion and ceremonies.

It lists U.S. government treaties with the tribe and shows many maps, including those of the various land sessions exchanged.

The book describes the two divisions of the Muscogee (Creek) tribe: the Upper Creeks of Alabama and the Lower Creeks of Georgia.

It tells how they met in unity at times and how they separated at others, including over the U.S. government urging them to move west of the Mississippi River.

It tells of the night the Upper Creeks killed the Lower Creek Chief William Mc-Intosh because he favored leaving Georgia/Alabama, rather than staying in territory becoming crowded with European invaders.

Dr. Gary L. McIntosh, a Muscogee (Creek) living in California, praised the book as, "the best overview and description of the murder of Chief William McIntosh, Jr." that he has ever seen.

The 'Slave Narratives' chapter describes slave's lives with their Muscogee (Creek)

There is a Chilly McIntosh family album, the total 'Laws of the Creek Nation,' a lengthy bibliography, an index of names, etc.

For more information, email: billiejanem@gmail. com.

For a signed book, send \$19 plus \$4 for postage to: Billie Jane McIntosh, 3300 N. Captain Colton Lane Flagstaff, AZ 86001.

CAREER EXPO SET FOR NOV. 5

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has set the third annual Education and Career Expo for 8 a.m., Nov. 5 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

For more information call MCN ET at: 918-732-7600.

GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR NOV. 7

WEWOKA, Okla. — Kaney Chapel Indian United Methodist Church, 35947 Hwy 59 E., is hosting an annual gospel singing 6 p.m., Nov. 7 as a tribute to those in the military.

For more information call: 405-618-0599.

INTER-TRIBAL PRAYER DAY SET FOR NOV. 7

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The second annual Inter-Tribal Prayer Day is set for Nov. 7 at the Sequoyah High School cafeteria in Tahlequah from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information call Betty Pulver at: 918-282-9381.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DEADLINE SET NOV. 22

ANADARKO, Okla. — Rock Springs Indian Baptist Church is asking for donations of: clothes, toys and school and personal items to take to To'hajiilee Indian Baptist Church on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.

The deadline to submit is Nov. 22.

For more information call J. C. Smith at: 405-243-6159 or Terry Fish at: 918-313-0407.

OCMA ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW SET NOV. 14

OKLAHOMA CITY — The second annual Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association Native American Arts and Crafts Show is set for Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

The vendor fee is \$20 and you must bring your own table. For more information, call: 405-605-2621.

Zumba returns to MCN communities

Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation PRIDE Program is again offering Zumba classes taught by Julie Bryant for Muscogee (Creek) citizens at the community centers.

We have expanded our service area and have new times that are available.

The more attendance that we have for these classes, the better chance that we have to continue bringing them to you.

They are taught so that all participants can take the class regardless of fitness level. You may even sit in a chair to do the exercise.

This is part of the MCN Dia-

betes Prevention Program and is designed to encourage everyone to exercise more.

The schedule is as follows: Nov. 5 - Sapulpa 11 a.m., Bristow 1 p.m.

Nov. 12 - Muskogee 11 a.m., Koweta 1 p.m.

Nov. 19 - Eufaula 11 a.m.,

Okemah 1 p.m. (tentative) Dec. 3 - Okmulgee 11 a.m.,

Dewar 1 p.m.

Dec. 10 - Eufaula 11 a.m.,

Muskogee 1 p.m. (tentative)

Several communities have expressed interest and we want to come to your community but need a lot of people to show up for those we have scheduled.

For more information call Bryant at: 918-895-3492.

NATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET SET DEC. 12

SAPULPA, Okla. — The fifth annual Native American Christmas Market is set for 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Dec. 12 at the Elks Lodge, 24 S. Poplar Ave., Sapulpa, OK 74066.

The featured artist will be Tim Nevaquaya and concessions will be handled by Autumn Star Catering. For more information, call Tricia Alexander at: 918-998-4549.

TCIC ELECTION SET FOR DEC. 15

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election for the secretary and treasurer board positions for Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m.

The deadline for letters of intent and \$20 for background checks is Nov. 19 by 5 p.m.

For questions or more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

DeLaune's Corner: Out of your element



MNN File Photo

Dancing beyond my comfort zone

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — Have you ever wanted to try something out that you have never done before and thought you would never do?

And when the time came around to do it, at the last second, you talked yourself out of it. You tell yourself that you can do it next week, next month or

Next thing you know, you never get around to it. You always think about it but never have the courage to follow through. I had this same issue and decided to make a change.

I still remember the day I, 'stepped out of my element.' It was Jan. 3 and I was in the parking lot looking in at all the people inside and wondering, 'should I do this?'

Eventually I walked in, saw a couch and sat down. The instructors introduced themselves and a few minutes later, started teaching me something new that I learned to love.

My 'element' is a dance that I would learn called bachata, which originated in the Dominican Republic and is performed all over the world. It is probably best to watch it through an online search to see what I mean.

After the first class, my curiosity grew. I kept returning to

see what I could learn. I talked to my instructors, whose names are Philip and Carla. In a short amount of time, I began to consider them some of my closest friends, almost family. They introduced me to a world that I would have never thought of participating in.

My curiosity kept growing. I am pretty sure that my instructors were getting sick of all the questions I asked but they bit their lip and answered.

Eventually, they told me about a dance team that they are a part of and wanted to see if I was interested. It took me about a week to decide but I went ahead and signed the necessary contract and thought, 'wow, a dance team?'

I had to play catch up because the team was already practicing the new routine so I had numerous sessions at the dance studio and my house. So many hours and so much effort was devoted to this dance.

It helped that I had a lot of support from my daughter who is on a dance team herself, so she understood the practice I had to put in.

While I practiced bachata, she practiced her hip-hop. It was great that we shared this experience, talking about our dances and what we learned that week. She gave me advice on what I needed to do. I never gave her advice. She is the better dancer.

All of the practices, hearing the music over and over, counting from one to eight infinite amounts of times was worth it. On June 20, my dance team, Tulsa Touch debuted our dance for the community. That was the reward, showing the dance to everyone

It made me appreciate taking that step forward, opening the door and taking a seat on the couch to learn something new. I still think about that day over and over. What if I did not go? What if I waited until the next

week? I do not think the results would have been the same.

What would my column be without quotes? Of course, I have two of them.

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something." – English author, Neil Gaiman

The next quote my instructor told me was:

"Tell me and I forget; teach me and I may remember; involve me and I learn." – Benjamin Franklin

To my instructors, all the extra sessions you have given me to help learn this new dance, words cannot properly express the appreciation that I have for you. To my new dance family, Tulsa Touch and Island Touch, although I cannot name everyone in this column, please know that your time, patience and advice were a big help.

So in closing, if there is something that you get from this column, I hope you step out of the element you are in now. If you want to try something new, do it. Make the mistakes, I still do. Over and over I make mistakes but I learn and keep going. That is what makes it fun.

I am still learning bachata because it is a never-ending process. I tried salsa dancing and at first, I did not like it but I have developed an interest again.

If you are ever in this area and you want to try bachata or salsa, please let me know. I know of a great place and environment to learn.

If you are nervous, so am I, and lastly, if you are afraid to go alone, chances are I will be there learning. So no excuses, come join me.

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

National Council releases forensic audit findings

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council released the findings from a forensic audit of MCN Oct. 2.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger stated he welcomed the process of the forensic audit, but questioned the reasoning and timing of its release in coordination with the Nov. 7 general election

"There's a lot of political positioning that's being done on this whole thing," Tiger said. "All I can do as a principal chief is just keep moving on."

Council Speaker Thomas Yahola said he did not feel the timing for the release of the audit was political, "But we've had some delays in the committee process for one reason or another."

The information in this coverage is attributed to the audit itself, unless otherwise noted.

Background

According to www.businessdictionary.com, a forensic audit is, "the application of accounting methods to the tracking and collection of forensic evidence usually for investigation and prosecution of criminal acts such as embezzlement or fraud."

Yahola said the audit request stemmed from citizen requests during the 2013 National Council Seat B elections.

Audit - 9

Unofficial general election results released



MNN File Photo

The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation general election was held Nov. 7.

	Principal (Chief			
1	JAMES FLOYD	3,090	62.34%		
2	GEORGE TIGER	1,867	37.66%		<u>Propose</u>
				1	YES
	National Council I	Delegates:		2	NO
1	McIntosh District - Seat A				Propose
1	DARRELL PROCTOR	2,846	59.11%	1	YES
2	SHARON WYATT ROSE	1,969	40.89%	2	NO
	Okfuskee District - Seat A				_
1	RANDALL HICKS	2,626	55.18%		х
2	FRANKLIN COACHMAN	2,133	44.82%		х
					x
1	Okmulgee District - Seat A				x
1	DEL VINCE BEAVER	2,592	54.21%		x
2	NELSON SCOTT HARJO	2,189	45.79%		x
					x
-	Tukvpvtce District - Seat A				х
ĺ	RUFUS SCOTT	2,711	56.92%		x
2	SHIRLENE M. ADE	2,052	43.08%		x
					x x
	Tulsa District - Seat A				х
1	ROBERT L. HUFFT	2,749	57.50%		x
2	ALEXIS BIBLE CROSLEY	2,032	42.50%		x

	<u>Propo</u>	<u>sea Amenament 1</u>			
1	YES		3,51	10 84	1.21%
2	NO		658	8 15	5.79%
	Propo	sed Amendment 2			
1	YES		3,47	77 83	3.64%
2	NO		68	0 16	5.36%
	•	Status of Polls Repo	orting (Election D	ay)	•
	х	BRISTOW	Yes		ı
	×	SAPULPA	Yes		
	x	СНЕСОТАН	Yes		
	x	EUFAULA	Yes	Count	
	x	HANNA	Yes	of Polls	
	×	YARDEKA	Yes	Reporting	
	x	MUSKOGEE	Yes	18	
	x	OKEMAH	Yes	10	
	x	WELEETKA	Yes	of	
	x	DEWAR	Yes	18	
	x	OKMULGEE	Yes		
	x	TWIN HILLS	Yes		
	x	DUSTIN	Yes		
	х	HOLDENVILLE	Yes		
	x	WETUMKA	Yes		
	x	GLENPOOL	Yes		

Constitutional Amendments:

Amendment 1

Breast cancer survivors, patients honored at annual event



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Attendees and coordinators of the 13th annual Pink Party for Breast Cancer Awareness hosted Oct. 28 by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health at the Mvskoke Dome, performed balloon release in honor of survivors and those still battling the disease.

First lady shares story of sadness, triumph at Pink Party

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — This time last year, Muscogee (Creek) Nation first lady Frances Tiger spoke to breast cancer survivors as a caregiver at the annual Pink Party hosted by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health.

"I spoke to you all because at

Pínk - 2

Housing policy waivers questioned

ILSA

WETA

Tiger, Fox respond to allegations

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation employee and Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rodney Josie requested and was granted permission to address the MCN National Council at the end of their quarterly session Oct. 31 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

In his statement, he requested a response to information Josie stated was provided to the Council regarding potential violations of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as MCN regulations.

Josie said he has also provid-

ed information concerning potential violations to the MCN attorney general and HUD.

Yes

Yes

"I know for a fact that the AG has never been approached about some of these allegations," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said in an interview with 'Native News Today.'

Josie subsequently released copies of housing policy waivers on his personal Facebook account along with corresponding pieces of the MCN Housing Policy established under TR 14-103, TR 05-030 and TR 05-086.

The 'Muscogee Nation News' obtained four copies of waivers from Josie that appear to be on MCN letterhead. Three of the

Waivers - 11

Mvskoke youth opportunity grant approved during Council session

Legislation addressed to transfer Horseshoe Bend artifacts responsibility to MCN

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Oct. 31 at the MCN Mound building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 15-173 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a participating health system agreement with Multiplan Inc. on behalf of the MCN Department of Health. Rep. Shirlene Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

MultiPlan Inc. provides health product coverage for certain MCNDH patients and the department wishes to utilize a potential opportunity under the agreement to recover costs associated with providing care those covered by the company.

• TR 15-174 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a provider network agreement with the Three Rivers Provider Network Inc. on behalf of MCNDH. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Three Rivers furnishes providers an in-network system for healthcare services at MCNDH facilities and the department wishes to enter into the agreement because they may be eligible for higher reimbursement amounts associated with providing services to those under the in-network plan.

• TR 15-175 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and the Indian Health Service for the construction, improvement, installation rehabilitation domestic water supply and wastewater disposal and plumbing facilities for 80 Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole,Tulsa and Wagoner counties. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN and IHS wish to install and improve water facilities to these homes with IHS providing \$780,240 for associated costs and MCN acting on a consolatory

Council - 7

PINK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation first lady Frances Tiger was the keynote speaker for the 13th annual Pink Party held Oct. 28 by the MCN Department of Health at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla.

that time I was taking care of my mother who was diagnosed with breast cancer," Frances Tiger said. "I think last year's Pink Party saved my life."

This year, she spoke as a survivor and the keynote guest during the 13th annual event Oct. 28 at the Myskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Frances Tiger said there was a history of breast cancer in her family and she gets her yearly mammogram checkups around Halloween.

"My mother and grandmother were all affected by this disease but I never thought that it would affect me," Frances Tiger said.

Frances Tiger's doctors sent her to get a diagnostic mammogram and results from a biopsy come back malignant.

"On Jan. 7., my life changed," Frances Tiger said.

Frances Tiger spoke of how she went from working, teaching and her family life to doctor's appointments, MRI's, biopsies and tests. She said the doctors started her chemotherapy very quick and that she would lose one of the things that she loved the most, her hair.

"As most of you know, we as women, we are proud of our hair," Frances Tiger said. "Our hair is our glory and I always had really long hair."

Frances Tiger said the chemotherapy was hard on her body and that she felt like she lived in a bubble. During this time, she said she was very weak and frail.

"I was not allowed to go around people and I am a people person," Frances Tiger said. Her chemotherapy ended June 12, and on Aug. 13, she had a double mastectomy. At this time, her doctors spoke to Frances Tiger about her life expectancy.

"The doctors outline my continuing treatment but this was the first time that I heard about my life expectancy," Frances Tiger said.

Frances said she knew then that she was not done with life.

"It was God's purpose," Frances Tiger said. "What mattered to me was staying alive."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger took time to recognize other survivors during the Pink Party.

"Today is about surviving," Chief Tiger said. "We celebrate those of you that are survivors."

Frances Tiger felt persistence is what helped doctors reach her diagnosis.

"I want to encourage you to know your bodies," Frances Tiger said. "If you feel something or you think you feel something, don't let our professional doctors tell you, 'I don't feel anything."

Throughout the long process, the chemotherapy sessions and radiation treatments, her doctors told her something that she has been waiting to hear.

"Praise the Lord, my doctors told me that I am cancer free," Frances Tiger said.

For more information on breast cancer go to: www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breastcancer-facts.

"Our annual Pink Party gets bigger and bigger every year," MCNDH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said. "It is great how our party and what we are doing is being recognized."

MCN Celebrates 2015 Council Oak Ceremony

Honoring the past, celebrating the future

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department hosted the 2015 Council Oak Ceremony Oct. 24 at Creek Nation Council Oak Park in Tulsa to pay tribute to the Myskoke people who were forcibly removed to the area from the southeastern U.S.

"It's always a special day whenever you can pay homage to those that has gone on before us," said MCN Principal Chief George Tiger. "Also to recognize that they set the foundation of who we are as Muscogee (Creek) people in today's times."

Every year, people come together to remember and honor those that made the journey on the Trail of Tears.

After removal from their Alabama homelands in 1834, the Locv Poky people of the Mus-

cogee (Creek) Nation arrived in 1836 to Indian Territory.

"The Trail of Tears, we were removed from Alabama so we actually put our ashes here at Council Oak," said TR Director William Lowe.

In an act proclaiming their arrival in and establishing their new home, the Locv Pokv placed ashes from their original ceremonial fire at the base of a towering oak located on a hill.

"I think a lot of the Tulsa citizens are under the misconception that Muscogee (Creek) Nation hardly have a little to do with the town but we are the ones who actually started this," Lowe said.

The site is referred to as Tulsa's first city hall and is now known as the Creek Nation Council Oak Park.

It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

"It's really a special place for me because when we actually in the '80s, started doing this, we knew we had to recognize those... that allows for us to be who we are," Tiger said. 'To be able to do some of this as an employee and now to be head of the fourth largest Tribal Nation in the country, it just kind of is a special place in my heart."

The large oak tree still stands tall and serves as a memorial.

The ceremony was followed by a social stickball game hosted by Mike Tiger, a dinner provided by Tallahassee Wakokaye Ceremonial Ground and a stompdance presented by Helvpe Ceremonial Ground.

"Today, we just use it as a celebration and really an educational tool for the community," Lowe said.

The TR office has Council Oak Ceremony T-shirts available for purchase.

For more information, contact MCN Tourism and Recreation Department at: 918-732-7992.

Creek Nation Council Oak Park is located at 1750 S. Avenue in Tulsa.

Indigenous Peoples' Day recognized at MCN

Columbus Day called into question in OKC

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A proclamation by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger declared Oct. 12 as Indigenous Peoples' Day at MCN to recognize the importance of remembering the history of Native peoples and their contribution of unique cultures.

Every year, the U.S. observes the second Monday in October as Columbus Day, a day intended to celebrate Christopher Columbus' arrival to America.

However, Native Americans around the world are taking a stand to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The MCN Proclamation stated that Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americans.

Proponents say that Indigenous Peoples' Day encourages a neutral and more accurate view of history by taking into account the perspective of Native Americans

They also describe the Columbus Day holiday and celebratory spectacle as a jab to Natives that ignores the traumatic times they endured after Columbus discov-

ered the Americas through loss of land, forced removals and other events to eliminate each tribe's culture and identity.

Seattle and Minneapolis became the first major cities to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day last year and this year Denver, Oregon, St. Paul, Minn., and Albuquerque, N.M., were added to the list.

The City of Anadarko was the first in Oklahoma to approve it.

This was soon followed by the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University observing the holiday on their campuses.

Sarah Adams-Cornell, a member of the Choctaw Nation, rallied with friends and supporters from other tribes to bring Indigenous Peoples' Day to Oklahoma City.

"We took a lot of our cues from what has been done in Seattle and Minneapolis and some of those places that have seen success with Indigenous Peoples' Day," Adams-Cornell said.

The resolution was presented to the council Sept. 29 where the ruling resulted in a 4-4 tie vote.

"After the momentum in Anadarko, we were hopeful that this was going to be an easy win," Adams-Cornell said. "Unfortunately, our council members were not all in favor and see it exactly the way we do."

The same resolution was presented to the council again Oct. 13 and failed with a 4-5 vote.

In coverage provided by 'KFOR Channel 4' out of Oklahoma City, OKC Mayor Mick Cornett stated why he voted against the resolution twice.

"There was a lot of really good, well-meaning people in the council chambers today making emotional pleas and a lot of good cases," said Cornett. "I hope people will listen to them. I think they've got a decent case at what they're trying to accomplish. But this is a federal holiday and I think the federal government at some point is going to take a look and listen to them and reconsider."

Some places have success with getting Indigenous Peoples' Day approved whereas others are still fighting for the change.

Cornett said in the same KFOR story, "I just think that if you're going to go after a federal law, you should go after the federal government than go city-by-city or county-by-county or state-by-state."

As for MCN, the second Monday in October is known as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

"We cannot in good conscience, endorse or support the celebration of Columbus Day, the very source of Indigenous Peoples' beginning of woes and ill wills," Tiger said.

MUSCOGEE NATION €

STAFF

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

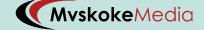
RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY

wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov



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Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation as well as MCN Department of Health officials and employees along with One Architecture CEO Shelby Navarro gathered Oct. 29 for a ceremony to break ground on the new MCN Medical Center emergency room expansion project in Okmulgee,

Groundbreaking held for new ER

Expansion to aid in service quality improvement

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Health held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 29 for an emergency room expansion project at the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee.

The MCNMC, formerly known as the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, was acquired August 2013.

"When we took this over we had four exam rooms in this ER, four examine rooms. The average length of stay was five to six hours," MCNDH Secretary of Health Lt. Cmdr. Seneca Smith said.

According to a MCNDH fact sheet, the expansion will add a total of 18 rooms with three trauma rooms, 10 fast track rooms, four observation rooms and one isolation room.

A fast track service is already in use at the facility to serve non-critical patients.

"Now, our patients in this area do not have to travel to Claremore and other areas to receive ER services," Smith

MCNMC CEO Angela Daugherty said in the last year, there has been an increase of patients served, going from 1,000 to 1,600 per month.

"We are looking forward to serving more patients, providing a higher quality of care and able to decrease our length of stay for our patients," Daugherty said.

The 7,400 square foot expansion will include ambulance services and a covered ambulance entrance.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said he hopes to continue with similar projects in the future.

"It is not about who we are or what we are doing, it is about the people we serve and those are the tribal citizens we serve and our friends through this community," Tiger said.

OIC breaks ground on new center



The Okemah Indian Community hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 27 for their new community building in Okemah, Okla

New center, new opportunities

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Okemah Indian Community held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 27 to celebrate the beginning of construction on their new community center.

The new building will be located to the south of the current building that is adjoined to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Okemah Casino.

The MCN National Council passed NCA 13-173 during the July 27, 2013 quarterly session appropriating \$855,250 for the project.

According to the chartered community directory on the MCN website, OIC services some 1,400 citizens through programs like Senior Lawn Service, summer school assistance and the provision of internet access for citizens.

"We do a lot of activities from our seniors to our youth. We just finished up with our festival last weekend, which was a great success," OIC Board Chairperson Tamara Berryhill said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger spoke at the ceremony.

"This day has been a long time coming as many of you know," Tiger said. "To have a building such as this, so that you could come together and fellowship and network, I know that you are looking forward to it and so are we."

Berryhill said the community, which is in its 30th year, was outgrowing the current facility.

"With this bigger facility, we are going to be able to house a lot more people in our community," Berryhill said.

MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett expressed the importance of investing in the communities.

"Our people are definitely the heartbeat of the Nation. Community centers give us a place to gather; they give us a place for community, really that sense of togetherness and unity within the Nation," Barnett said.

Berryhill mentioned a specific demographic that is important to OIC.

"Our elders are very important to us." Berryhill said. "They are very active monthly, you know, constantly doing things for our community."

Barnett said with this new facility, community members could take pride in their build-

"...And having it be a safe, lively environment to come and have their gatherings," Barnett said.

Onefire seeks success through calculated marketing strategy



MNN File Photo

RiverWalk targets retail, service enterprises

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

JENKS, Okla. — The pieces of the tenant puzzle are beginning to fall into place and Onefire Holding Company is hoping that upfront decision making with their management of the RiverWalk complex in Jenks will pay off.

"It's been really cool to see this come together because when we first got the property, it was kind of the black eye of sorts. Nobody really knew what to do with it," RiverWalk and Onefire Communications Director Jessica Dyer said. "In a year, it's just really started to take shape and be something that Onefire can be proud of and the Creek Nation as a tribe and the citizens can be

The team that Onefire put together conceived a three-phase plan to bring what they believe to be the right mix of businesses to RiverWalk to make it success-

The collaborative effort has incorporated Onefire, Muscogee (Creek) Nation and economic development leaders and businesses within the community to transform the empty buildings facing the Arkansas River to a bustling entertainment and business complex.

Onefire's ultimate goal is to establish the property in the Jenks area, similar to that of Utica Square in South Tulsa.

According to a community analysis of Jenks by Northeastern State University and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Jenks has seen population growth in recent years.

The report states that in mid-2014, the population within a 10-minute drive of the community was 175,053. The average household income for Jenks during that time was \$97,000.

The report projects that the population and average household income will continue to

Phase one of Onefire's plan to draw people and businesses to the property was securing an anchor tenant. They announced in February 2015 that MCN and RW Restaurant Development would partner to build the FlyingTee entertainment and golf complex.

A \$22 million combined investment, FlyingTee integrates the golf experience with modern day technology to appeal to customers of all ages.

FlyingTee is expected to open March 2016.

"Getting the anchor tenant just changed everything out there and it's really starting to flow," Onefire Leasing and Property Manager Garrett Mahaney said. "So, it made our job a whole lot easier."

Phase two of the plan was to increase the daytime population at RiverWalk.

The back portion of the property that includes two two-story buildings has been converted from retail leasing space to office leasing space.

A majority of leases for the offices are 10-year commitments. "These are proven operators...

These are people that have been in business," Onefire CEO Mike Payne said. "They know what they're doing and they're making commitments to us, long

Insurance agency Strong Family Financial and business education organization Thrive 15 have relocated their corporate offices to the RiverWalk Development.

Dyer estimates that around 400 people work at RiverWalk every day, not including construction workers for FlyingTee.

By transforming spaces from retail to office emphasis, Dyer said that Onefire has built a sense of community that spans from the morning to after the work-day has ended, allowing the retail portion of the complex to accommodate customers who also work there.

"People don't understand that you have to have people all day long, and on the weekends and evenings," Dyer said.

Mahaney estimates the occupancy rate for office space at 71 percent, with 5,000 square feet of space left to lease.

use the occupied office spaces and opening of FlyingTee to nail down retail lease contracts. Mahaney said that retail space

Phase three of the plan is to

is filled at a 38 percent occupancy rate.

Approximately eight retail spaces are available.

A nail salon, coffee roaster and whiskey bar have opened their doors to patrons in the recent months.

Tea connoisseur boutique Trader Leaf will also have a shop at the development.

"It's just finding the right tenant mix that plays off each other well," Payne said. "You know, the FlyingTee will very likely have waits of a couple hours especially in the evenings and on the weekends."

Payne said that Onefire is analyzing potential leases to ensure that a variety of restaurants and businesses are selected to pair with the anchor tenant.

The team expects most openings in the retail portion of RiverWalk to coincide with the launching of FlyingTee.

Dyer said that careful planning to restore the property as a strong business complex is something that will benefit the community, MCN and its citi-

"Building a legacy and building something great doesn't happen in just over night," Dyer

The City of Jenks and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority announced an \$18 million roads project Oct. 14 that will improve access to the RiverWalk Development as well as the proposed Simon Premium Outlets set to open in 2017.

Expected to be completed in 2017, the project will build frontage roads along the Creek Nation Turnpike and remove the traffic signals from the Elm Street intersection.



Native comic book author speaks at Council House



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Native American comic book author Arigon Starr spoke during a book-signing event hosted Oct. 27 by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives at the MCN Council House in Okmulgee, Okla.

Starr talks comics, ideas, industry

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The creator of the comic book series 'Super Indian,' Arigon Starr spoke Oct. 27 at a book-signing event hosted the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives at the MCN Council House in downtown Okmulgee.

"We're always looking out to,

not only recognize and help promote own Mvskoke artists but also Native artists in general as well,"

CCA Interim Director Justin words," Starr said. Giles said.

Starr, who is Kickapoo and also Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee and Seneca, talked about volume two, the newest issue of 'Super Indian' which is about vampires.

"I thought, 'What if there was a vampire that wanted to become a full blood Indian by biting other full blood Indians?" " Starr said.

She explained the vampire

came a vampire because he was cursed for trying to steal Aztec

"I take on 'Twilight' in here, but it is called 'Never At Dusk,' " Starr said.

Within the 'Super Indian' series, Starr includes small biographies of different Native Ameri-

"What I do is I do a portrait of them and then do a whole write up about their lives. And I write it real simple because kids are not going to know all these big

"I take on 'Twilight' in here, but it is called 'Never at Dusk." Native American comic book author

Arigon Starr

same stuff," Starr said.

Starr said others helped her by sharing their knowledge and critiquing her work.

"I specifically moved to Los Angeles. That was the big start of everything. If I hadn't moved up to where the business was, I don't think anything would have happened," Starr said. "I met a lot of good people there, people that were mentors and helped

Starr said there are a number of jobs available in the comic book industry.

"Usually, it all gets farmed out. You know there is one person that writes the story. There is another

one that pencils it. There is an-



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Amanda Rutland/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives along with Muscogee (Creek) Bow Shooters Society head John Brown and living historian Butch Fuller (pictured) are carving two canoes out of a poplar tree from the MCN homelands.

Nation takes on project with ties to homelands

Poplar tree from Alabama to be turned into two canoes

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — What stood as a poplar tree came falling down and its life came to an end in the old homelands of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in September, or did it?

This tree will be used to make two canoes in a similar fashion to how they were done by Muscogee (Creek) ancestors in the original MCN territory of the Southeastern United States.

In an interview with alexcityOutlook.com, head of the Muscogee Creek Bow Shooters Society John Brown spoke about the spiritual aspects of

hunt and what we used for battle were these dugout canoes."

Giles spoke about why this project is important.

"Because we are displaced people," he said. "Where we are at now is not our homelands so what we are making is one of the ways to show everyone where we originated from."

He explained how learning about the past helps prepare for the future.

"The more we know about our ancestors, today, the more we find out about ourselves and the more we can continue on living into tomorrow," Giles said.

The tree is estimated to be 150-200 years old.

The canoe project took about two years to develop.

"We had to find the right

We come from the area where Georgia and Alabama is at now. This tree that we are having the dugout canoes made from is from our homelands."

— MCN CCA Interim Director Justin Giles

"It's really exciting for us, not only to get a tree from our homeland, but to take it back and share it with the people," Brown said. "I'm honored to be here."

Before the tree was cut, Brown offered a prayer in the Mvskoke language and shook loose tobacco around the base as a gesture of thanks.

"It's the offering we make for taking life," Brown said of the ceremony. "We're paying our respects and paying back for what our Creator has provided for us."

From Oct. 13-18, MCN Cultural Center and Archives staff, along with Butch Fuller of Alexander City, Ala., worked on carving out one of the two dugout canoes at the MCN Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

"We want to show the world what our tribes travelled in," CCA Interim Director Justin Giles said. "What we used to

the poplar tree and its signifi- people to make this happen," Giles said.

> One of these people is Fuller. He has made several canoes in the past and will also be making a canoe for Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.

"For the two canoes, one will be in the new country and one will be in the old country," Fuller said.

Fuller, who is of Muscogee (Creek) descent, is a living historian in Alabama. He spends most of his time building log cabins and early American furniture.

Fuller shared how he felt when CCA asked him to help with the canoes.

"It is quite an honor to be asked to do this," Fuller said. "I have built several canoes but this one is very different."

The CCA and Fuller hope to have the canoes done by March 2016.

"The long process will be drying the wood out," Fuller said. "That is why we are saying it will be done in March."



Amanda Rutland/MNN



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Muscogee (Creek) veteran Michael Coon shared the story of his veteran son, Keith Coon's struggle with post traumatic stress disorder. L to r: Jeremy, Michael and Keith Coon.

Father shares son's struggle with PTSD

Coon finds strength in retelling military legacy

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Michael Coon remembered his son Keith playing baseball, football and becoming a second-degree black belt in taekwando.

He recalled a fond memory of Keith insisting on dressing just like him.

"And he decided he had to have a tie. So, he always had a tie like myself," Michael said.

Just like his father, he followed the military legacy set by his grandfather Phillip Coon, a World War II veteran and Bataan Death March survivor.

Michael became a U.S. Army paratrooper and Vietnam War veteran, and Keith an Army Bradley Tank gunner, .50-caliber machine gunner and decorated soldier of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.

"He just wanted to make his grandpa proud," Michael said.

After his last tour overseas, Michael noticed the toll that war and family turmoil had taken on Keith. Keith was fighting an internal battle when he returned stateside.

Keith's grandmother passed away in 2013, another grandmother and grandfather in 2014 and his mother in 2015.

"But the ones that keep it in, they can only hold it for so long and then when they come back to society like it is here, they can't adjust," Michael said. "They're so used to a violent environment over there... it's like home to them to go back."

Michael said that half of Keith's brothers-in-arms had been lost in the wars or to one of the potential effects of posttraumatic stress disorder.

PTSD is not limited to veterans, but occurs after a traumatic incident or threat of harm. Symptoms of the condition include flashbacks, avoidance, angry outbursts, depression and being easily startled, and can sometimes lead to suicide.

According to U.S. Veterans Affairs, 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans have experienced PTSD.

"It's because over there, they see death every day," Michael said. "And over here, we just read about it but they're involved in it

According to the VA, 22 veterans committed suicide each day

Michael said that Keith felt like he had been backed into a corner and could not find a way

"They need to understand that soldiers are calling for help inside, and you have to recognize

their actions and if you the was telling me about a firefight that they had just like in my son's, I'd see that he was drinking than more usual," he

In one of their last conversations, Michael told his son not to worry about his life crumbling around him but to just take care of his children.

"I talked to him a lot when he was here and I just told him that he had to be strong like his grandpa," he said.

Michael lost his son Sept. 23. He was 33.

At Keith's funeral, one of his brothers-in-arms presented his own Combat Infantry Badge to Michael.

"He was telling me about a firefight that they had and he said, 'If it wasn't for your son, I wouldn't be here," Michael said.

Michael knew his son was hurting but he is still a proud father.

He said that many service members are under duress, not just from the struggles of going to war, but the strain it places on the family environment.

Not only do soldiers have to deal with the stigma of mental illness, but he said that many soldiers refuse to seek help because of the risk of being stamped unfit to serve.

"But this is the soldier's livelihood," Michael said. "This is how they take care of their fam-

Once out of the military, service members have to adjust to civilian life and find work to

here.' "

- Muscogee (Creek) citizen

Michael Coon

He feels the U.S. Military and

"Instead of putting monu-

ments up when they're gone

and dead, you should be help-

ing them now while they're alive

and when they're pleading or

He suggested that society

could do more to reach out to

those that protect their freedom.

home, we should honor them

more than we do. We take them

"I think that when they come

crying for help," Michael said.

veterans groups should do more

to support service members.

support their families.

for granted," Michael said. "You don't go up to them and ask them, 'Are you OK? Do you need to talk?' They just don't want to get involved and it's why the soldier feels like nobody cares because they don't want to talk."

He said that his grandson has told him he wants to be the fourth generation, and keep the family's military legacy alive. Michael said that makes him

He said he will continue to travel and share his father's and Keith's story.

He hopes to preserve their legacy, remind the public of the heroes that fight for our freedom and raise awareness about PTSD.

"I have to be strong now to tell my son's story, to tell my dad's story," he said. "There's not much that can come my way

that I haven't already dured. You just and he said, 'If it wasn't for your son, I wouldn't be keep thinking, 'What next?' You just have to be strong and say, 'I can get

through it.' " A trust fund for Keith's children has been set up at Spirit-Bank in Sapulpa. Checks should be addressed to Michael K.

be reached at: 918-227-5761. If you are a veteran seeking help, call the Veterans Crisis Line at: 1-800-273-8255 to speak with a qualified responder, or

Coon Memorial. SpiritBank can

text a message to 838255. If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal symptoms, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK).



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). \$200 compensation (\$100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is** conducting a University of Tulsa IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators: Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

basis for legal and technical resolution, which passed 14-0. aspects related to the project.

• TR 15-176 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an exchange of letter amendment for IHS Project OK 13-E31. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

authorized a memorandum understanding with IHS for the project, which authorized the installation of water supply and wastewater disposal serving Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner counties.

installation of another water main extension, which will serve an additional Indian participant.

• TR 15-177 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a 6055 and 6056 services assistance agreement with HR Workplace Services Inc. for the MCN Human Resources Department. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The company will help the Nation properly report health coverage provided to MCN employees to the IRS and said employees as mandated by the Affordable Care Act.

• TR 15-178 Authorizing the execution of a training area certificate application on behalf of MCNDH. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH wishes submit an application to the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy to train pharmacy interns.

• TR 15-179 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a software licensing agreement on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH wishes to utilized software from Darlene D. Bainbridge and Associates Inc., which according to their website, 'are dedicated to bringing high quality consulting services to rural healthcare organizations and communities.'

• TR 15-180 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease agreement for use of space with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH uses space on the OSUIT campus to provide services and authorization of this use must be renewed annually.

• TR 15-181 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement between the MCN Medical Center and Saint Francis Hospital. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNMC provides service to patients who may need to be transferred to another facility for care that may not be provided at the center and this agreement will allow the transfer of said patients to Saint Francis when necessary.

• TR 15-182 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Deaconess Health System LLC. Barnett sponsored the IHS will give, without any

MCNDH wishes to enter the agreement for assistance with efficiently and effectively managing its services.

Visit the Deaconess website at: www.deaconess.com.

• TR 15-183 Authorizing Previous MCN legislation the principal chief to execute a software access and remote hosting agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Cerner Corporation and 3M Company. Barnett sponsored resolution, which passed 14-0.

> MCNDH wishes to enter into the agreement for assistance with effectively managing its services.

Information about Cerner The letter will allow the hosting services may be viewed at: www.cerner.com/solutions/ cerner_services/hosting_ services/.

Information about 3M medical services may be viewed at: www.3m.com/3M/en_US/ health-care-us/.

• TR 15-184 Approving a Housing Department elder subsidy program operating policy on behalf of the MCN Housing Department. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The MCN Code Annotated requires legislative approval for Housing to adopt policies and procedures.

The department wishes to implement a policy designed to serve as a guide for the Elder Subsidy Program, which is targeted at elder citizens in need of affordable and safe housing.

• TR 15-185 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an application for credit on behalf of MCNDH with Abbott Medical Optics. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to the overview tab on their website, 'Abbott Optics is number one in LASIK (eye surgery), number two in cataract, where they are growing in their position with the TECNIS platform (cataract surgery lenses); and they are number three in eye care solutions.

More information can be found at: www. abbottmedicaloptics.com.

• TR 15-186 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a preferred lease and annual maintenance agreement on behalf of MCNDH with Preferred Business Systems LLC. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

According to the PBS website, they offer, 'award winning technology along with sales, service and supplies.'

Examples include: digital copiers, multifunctional devices, fax, network printers or document workflow challenges.

• TR 15-187 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a renewal application for registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for the MCNDH pharmacies. Barnett sponsored resolution, which passed 14-0.

The application is needed so MCNDH can maintain registration with the DEA for its pharmacy services.

• TR 15-188 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a transfer agreement between MCN and the U.S. acting through IHS. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Through the agreement,

monetary consideration, all rights to facilities constructed and installed in the project to provide wastewater disposal and a satisfactory domestic water supply to the Okfuskee Indian Community building.

• TR 15-189 Authorizing the construction of an emergency room at the MCN Medical Center. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH broke ground Oct. 29 on the project, which will add three trauma rooms, 10 fast track rooms, four observation rooms and one isolation room. MCN assumed management of MCNMC, formerly known as the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital from the City of Okmulgee in 2013.

• TR 15-190 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and IHS for the employment of Samuel D. Hubler as commissioned personnel at the Okmulgee Indian Health Clinic. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

IHS would like to provide U.S. Public Health Services Commissioned Corps Officer Samuel D. Hubler to serve as a pharmacist at the Okmulgee Indian Health Clinic to enhance the delivery of their health programs.

• TR 15-191 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a repatriation agreement with the National Park Service Horseshoe Bend National Military Park for the transfer of funerary objects at the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. Reps. Darrell Proctor and Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The park has agreed to transfer responsibility funerary objects and human remains at the site to the MCN Department of Cultural Preservation.

• TR 15-192 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a standard form of agreement between owner and construction manager and general conditions of the contract for construction with the Ross Group for Construction Management Services for the Eufaula Clinic Project. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

meets the The group construction management needs of MCNDH for the Eufaula project. More information about the company can be viewed at: www.trgcc.

• TR 15-193 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an extension of the incoming loan agreement with the National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center the purpose of completing assessment of Muscogee (Creek) human remains and funerary objects for reunification with the Muscogee (Creek) human remains and funerary objects curated at the Southeast Archeological Center. Deere sponsored the resolution, which

passed 14-0. MCN has repatriated remains and funerary objects discovered at the Ocmulgee National Monument previously in the possession of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History to the Southeast Archeological Center for the purpose of assessing and possibly matching them with remains and funerary objects curated at the center.

An extension is needed to complete the assessment before

returning them to MCN for reburial at the Monument.

TR 15-194 Confirming Rebecca Landsberry to serve on the Mvskoke Media Editorial Board. Reps. Lucian Tiger and David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

NCA 15-218 was passed during the Sept. 26 regular removing session department from directly under the executive branch in the MCN organizational chart and making it an independent statutory executive agency.

A three-person board is solely responsible for the employment status of the manager as well as the department policies and procedures.

Lansberry is the former editor of the 'Muscogee Nation News' and the interim executive director of the Native American Journalists Association.

• TR 15-195 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority in collaboration with other certain tribal Nations for the repatriation of Nation American human remains and associated funerary objects excavated in Smith County, Tennessee. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

TVA wishes to transfer control of the remains and objects to MCN for care by the Cultural Preservation Department. They were deemed culturally unidentifiable as defined under NAGPRA and TVA consulted with MCN and other tribes regarding them.

• TR 15-197 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for electric service with Public Service Company of Oklahoma for electric service to the Okemah Hospital. Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Electrical service is needed to construct and operate the facility.

• TR 15-198 Authorizing the transfer of the management and operation of Stone Blade Restaurant and the property a benefactor and would like formerly know as the Okmulgee Country Club from Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise to MCN. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

Management of the property was assigned to MNBE after it was purchased in 2012 and now MCN wishes to handle it.

• TR 15-199 Authorizing the principal chief to begin negotiations for a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN has the opportunity to purchase property adjacent to the Arbeka Ceremonial Ground to increase the Nation's land base and allow for growth of the ground.

• TR 15-200 Confirming Travis Snell to serve on the Mvskoke Media Editorial Board. Rep. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

NCA 15-218 was passed during the Sept. 26 regular session removing the department from directly under the executive branch in the MCN organizational chart and making it an independent statutory executive agency.

A three-person board is solely responsible for the employment status of the manager as well as the department policies and procedures.

Snell has upwards of 15 years journalism experience, is the assistant editor of the

'Cherokee Phoenix' and has an existing rapport with MM through past media trainings conducted for their staff by his outlet.

• TR 15-201 Ratifying the principal chief's execution of an attachment to the compact of self-governance by and between the MCN and the U.S. Rep. Johnnie Greene sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The compact was made with the Department of Health and Human Services Aug. 8, 2002 for a multi-year funding agreement from Oct. 1, 2014 - Sept. 30, 2016 that set forth guidelines for the agreement.

Council The appropriated and expended \$6,953,248 under the agreement for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and is budgeted to receive the same amount the following year under this compact.

• NCA 15-225 Authorizing a \$1,500 donation for the fourth annual Okmulgee County Community Baby Shower. Rep. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

First United Methodist Church along with other local agencies has scheduled the fourth annual event for Nov. 18 to help families provided necessities for their babies and expectant as well as new mothers the opportunity the benefits learn breastfeeding, of: what developmental milestones to expect, child nutrition and safety, immunizations as well as available community resources.

• NCA 15-227 Establishing the MCN Senior Services Department revolving fund for various activities of the department. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The department has the opportunity to receive a donation from the estate of to use the funds for future activities hosted by the department for Muscogee (Creek) elders. They need the fund account in order to do

• NCA 15-228 Amending NCA 12-239 (Authorizing a supplemental appropriation of funds to the Higher Education Department's FY 2013 budget to establish a Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program) in order to rename it the MCN Scholarship Foundation Program. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-1 with Hill voting against it.

The legislation amends a previous bill that provided and appropriation to establish and fund the program as it was formerly known and updates it to the current name.

• NCA 15-229 Authorizing a \$432.50 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0. Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Samantha Bachman pursuing a master's degree in music therapy and requested assistance to attend the American Music Therapy Association Conference Nov. 11-14 in Kansas City, Mo.

• NCA 15-230 Authorizing a

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Sterling Cosper/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger addresses the MCN National Council Oct. 31 during their quarterly session at the MCN Mound building in Okmulgee, Okla.

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\$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Braleigh King, 11, plays softball for the Athletics 03 Main out of Oklahoma City and requested assistance to participate with them for fall 2015 and spring 2016.

• NCA 15-232 Authorizing a \$1,228 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Isabella Zafar, 12, attends Owasso Public Schools and requested assistance to travel to Washington, D.C., with the school to explore important historical sites.

• NCA 15-233 Authorizing a needs are met. \$2,046.99 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) student. Rep. David Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Rachel Hicks attends OSUIT requested financial assistance to cover her educational expenses due to financial hardship.

the expenditure of \$175,000 awarded from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, IHS for the **MCN** Behavioral Health expand and Services to Methamphetamine enhance Prevention and Treatment Services. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

The funds will go towards improving the program by delivering and sustaining comprehensive, integrated, community-based and culturally appropriate prevention and treatment services to American Indians and their families who suffer or are at risk for methamphetamine abuse.

• NCA 15-236 Authorizing the expenditure of \$175,000 awarded from HHS, IHS for the MCN Behavioral Health Services to expand and enhance suicide prevention and treatment services. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The funds will go towards providing a foundation for delivering and sustaining comprehensive, integrated, community-based and culturally appropriate prevention and treatment services to American Indians and their families who suffer or are at risk for suicide.

• NCA 15-237 Appropriating \$67,127.25 to the Euchee Language Department for the purchase of a 15 passenger accessible bus and Hoyer Lift. Rep. Tiger

sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program requested the assistance due to a handicapped student who uses a motorized wheelchair on a daily basis.

• NCA 15-238 Amending MCNCA Title 35, Chapter 9 titled, 'Special Appropriations and Guidelines' creating a new Chapter 13 titled, 'Mvskoke Youth Opportunity Grant.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment would strike a portion of the existing Chapter 9 regarding appropriations for sports and hobbies that states individual requests will be based on need up to \$250 per year and this funding will have the lowest priority based on a first-come-first-served basis after more highly prioritized

The new Chapter 13 would create a \$60,000 grant beginning with FY 2017 included in the annual budget to be administered by the **Myskoke Nation Youth Services** Program to expedite the process for tribal youth who seek funding assistance from

It sets forth requirements that • NCA 15-235 Authorizing state all enrolled youth up to age 24 who participate in activities and opportunities that are not part of school curriculum are eligible for \$250 per fiscal year and that further requirements will be determined through guidelines set forth by the MNYS director and the Youth **Council Grant Committee that** will be reviewed by the MCN Office of the Attorney General.

The director will have discretionary authority manage and disperse the grant and will provide quarterly reports on all approved grants to the Council.

• NCA 15-239 Authorizing a \$1,770.30 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed

Muscogee (Creek) citizen April **Fields** requested assistance because she attended classes at the University of Phoenix but one of her past due loans was in default causing her financial aid to be placed on hold until the total balance was paid.

She received assistance through the Emergency Scholarship program but it was not paid in a 60 timeframe, which caused a \$528.30 collection fee and she is also responsible for \$1,242 from her summer class due to the hold on her financial aid.

• NCA 15-241 Authorizing a \$75,000 appropriation to fund the costs associated with the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting. Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

MCN will host the meeting Jan. 7-8, 2016 and the funds will help procure meeting rooms, food, promotional items and entertainment.

• NCA 15-243 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Headstart Program FY 2015 Federal Funds. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The program wishing to reallocate certain excess federal funds to ensure certain line items are sufficient enough through the end of FY 2015.

• NCA 15-244 Amending MCNCA Title 19 subsection 13-102 titled 'Maintenance of Records.' Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment would add to this portion of the law regarding the MCN Election Board's provision of voter information to a candidate upon paying their filing fee for office, making it so that only voters' names and addresses are given.

• NCA 15-246 Authorizing a \$41,345 appropriation for the MCN Head Start Program FY 2016 budget. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The American Indian and Alaska Native Program Branch federal program analyst advised Head Start that incentives are not allowable on federal and federal match budgets.

The appropriation would provide for Head Start employees to receive a onetime incentive payment in November 2015.

Ade was absent.

The upcoming regular session is scheduled Nov. 21.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc. com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www.creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCNConstitution, bill every passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action.

If he neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For questions or more information contact Council office at: 918-758-1410.

ITC passes ICWA, treaty rights legislation during session



Tribal leaders met Oct. 8-9 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, Okla., for the quarterly meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. L to r: Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Cherokee Nation Deputy Principal Chief S. Joe Crittenden, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger, Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton and Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo.

Quarterly meeting held in Durant

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A quarterly session of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes was held Oct. 8-9 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in

ITC unanimously passed the following resolutions:

• Resolution 15-29: Supporting the nomination of Joe Byrd as National Congress of the American Indians (NCAI) Eastern Region vice-president.

NCAI was founded in 1944 to protect treaty and sovereignty rights of Native American tribes. NCAI has divided the U.S. into 12 regions with the Eastern Oklahoma Region encompassing the FCT jurisdictions.

Byrd is the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council speaker and has served on various boards for the State of Oklahoma.

• Resolution 15-30:

Declaring unequivocal support for the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' guidelines and proposed

regulations, which serve the best interests of Indian children.

The legislation calls for all tribes, as well as national and regional organizations to support the U.S. Department of Justice and the BIA's efforts with ICWA.

ICWA is a federal law, which grants Native preference in the placement of Native children in foster and adoptive homes.

This is in an effort for Native children to retain their cultural identity.

ITC passed a similar resolution during the July 10 session that opposed weakening ICWA.

• Resolution 15-31: To respect and protect our member Nations' rights in their original homelands as well as those of all 'removed' Native Nations and tribes in their original territo-

The bill pledged to protect the tribes' rights to hunt, fish and gather and to protect burial, historic and cultural sites in their current tribal jurisdictions as well as their original homelands from which they were removed.

The bill called on Congress to pass legislation requiring consultation with tribes removed from ancestral homes before any disturbance or removal of human remains pertinent to their culture occurs.

Hickory Ground Ceremonial Ground of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been combatting the removal of ancestral remains from their original site near Wetumpka, Ala., by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

• Resolution 15-32: Establishing a youth committee.

The legislation recognized the youth committee as a platform for collaborative initiatives.

The Obama Administration's Generation Indigenous Initiative (Gen I) was launched last year during the White House Tribal Nations Conference.

According a White House fact sheet released Dec. 3, 2014, Gen I is, "A Native youth initiative focused on removing the barriers that stand between Native youth and their opportunity to succeed."

> • Resolution 15-33: In support of H.R. 592/S. 314, the Phar-

> > Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act. T h e legislation states

macy and

that Native Americans have more health related issues that other ethnicities living in Oklahoma with the

leading causes of death being heart disease, diabetes and can-The legislation goes on to state that Oklahoma has repeatedly

been one of the lowest Indian Health Service areas. This resolution makes pharmacists eligible for reim-

bursement for services under Medicare Part B in an effort to improve quality of care. • Resolution 15-34: To sup-

port the National Day of Prayer of the United States of America. This day is set for May 5, 2016.

According to the legislation:

"It is a commission of all nations to acknowledge our God, in humility with assured hope of mercy and pardon, recognizing the sacred truth that He blesses our nations; and throughout history, in times of joy and thanksgiving as well as in times of sorrow or uncertainty, we have lifted our voices in prayer to rejoice in the many blessings bestowed upon the Five Civilized Tribes."

MCN will host the next quarterly meeting Jan. 7-8.

AUDIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said after the election, the Council representatives came together to discuss their goals.

"One comment was that we should have a forensic audit, you know, on the Nation's funds," he said.

The Council initiated the audit Aug. 23, 2014 through National Council Resolution 14-004, requesting Grant Thornton LLP to conduct a forensic audit of the Nation's finances.

Tiger said that NCR legislation typically does not pertain to the executive branch.

"But in the spirit of cooperation, because we're a tribal government, we wanted to again go back to my commitment of helping to get through this that we started the process with them," Tiger said.

Yahola said the Council used the NCR code to request the forensic audit as opposed to the Tribal Resolution (TR) code because they were the body that employed the accounting firm.

"But also we have to go by NCA (National Council Appropriation) to request the funds," Yahola said.

NCR legislation passed by the Council does not require the principal chief's signature or a veto override to proceed. However, NCA and TR legislation passed by the Council to appropriate funds must have a signature by the principal chief, non-action by the principal chief or a veto override by the Council to proceed.

According to the audit, the Council requested that Grant Thornton discontinue the audit Feb. 19 and prepare a report based upon the findings at that time.

The Council passed combined legislation appropriating \$486,106.51 to Thornton LLP to conduct the audit.

A letter accompanying the audit findings states that the audit was conducted according to American Institute of Certified Public Accountants standards.

The auditors were requested by the Council to review the financial transactions of the: Office of the Second Chief, Office of the Controller, Office of the Principal Chief, Department of Housing, National Council, Muscogee Nation Business Enterprises, Muscogee International and the Trade and Commerce Authority.

In the audit documentation, Grant Thornton expressed that the audit was requested due to alleged fraudulent activity in the Office of the Second Chief. The Council requested that the above-mentioned departments be audited due to risk factors.

Former Second Chief Roger Barnett was indicted Aug. 6, 2014 by the U.S. Attorney General's Office for the Northern District of Oklahoma for embezzling approximately \$150,000 from MCN. Barnett pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 33 months in prison and to pay \$211,880.76 in restitution.

Grant Thornton conducted over 30 interviews, reviewed 4,500 pages of documentation and analyzed \$165 million in expenditures from requested MCN departments for the 2012-2013 calendar years.

For example, the auditors reviewed provided information such as: vendor invoices and contracts, program budgets and budget modifications, travel authorizations and expense reports as well as credit and debit card

statements. They also looked for deficiencies in established MCN policies and procedures.

Findings in the report are not always specified as to which source they are attributed to.

The auditors focused on analyzing patterns and transactions deemed high risk. The report describes high-risk transactions as being abnormal or not conforming to the Nation's policies and procedures.

Tiger said the executive branch conducts a general audit every year to verify that finances are in regulatory compliance.

In those audits, Tiger said that there were findings similar to those in the forensic audit and the concerns were addressed.

"In the exit interviews on those audits, the Council, speaker, they were invited to see the audits to see how we were addressing some of the concerns they had with the previous second chief's administration. None of them came over," Tiger said.

MCN Acting Controller Patricia Kilian said the financials used to conduct the forensic audit were the same ones utilized during the annual audits.

In an interview, Tiger said he felt the financial information provided for the forensic audit was redundant.

"It was our understanding that it was going to be a financial audit," Tiger said. "But it kind of went into other parameters as well."

Yahola said

that the Council had access to the annual audits, but decided to pursue a forensic audit.

"A forensic audit is a thorough audit and that's what we wanted to delve into," Yahola said.

In a letter from Grant Thornton to National Council Attorney Zeke Fletcher dated June 29, the auditors give input as to how the forensic audit re-

port is used.

"It is restricted for the use by the National Council of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation; however, this restriction is not intended to limit distribution after acceptance by the National Council, at which time this report may become a public record of the Muscogee (Creek)

Nation," the report states.

In the audit report under subtitle 'Limitations of Scope,' the auditors expressed hesitation for release of the full report.

"This report contains sensitive and confidential information proprietary to the Nation, and distribution of this information is strongly discouraged," the report states.

Electronic data limitations

The audit states that auditors were limited in collecting electronically stored information (ESI) as part of the investigation. ESI is defined as email and computer records.

"Again, in the spirit of cooperation, we did approach members of my cabinet," Tiger said. "They were OK with it even though it disrupted their every day ability with their programs."

Letters between Tiger and Yahola about obtaining information are also included in the audit.

A letter dated Nov. 20, 2014

from Tiger to Yahola expressed concern for auditors showing up unannounced at the MCN Tribal Complex offices in Okmulgee, and their access of employee personnel files.

"I believe it is inappropriate for the Forensic Audit Team to be accessing confidential personnel files without the consent of the individual employees," Tiger states in the letter.

Tiger said in an interview that the discussed protocol was that any request for information would be brought to the Office of the Principal Chief.

In his letter, Tiger requested a list of records each department would need to provide prior to the visit and 24-hours notice before the auditors would arrive.

Yahola responded in a letter dated Nov. 26, 2014.

"With regard to your concerns, we recognize that the audit is inconvenient and the auditors' unannounced visits to secure records may consume a period of time from certain employees of the Nation.

"And while there is an opportunity to afford some notice to the relevant departments of an impending visit, in order for the auditors to follow their protocols for securing and auditing information and documents, providing 24 hours

for documents to be misplaced

any kind (as cooperation from

the administration has been

very good), but in order for

the integrity of the audit to be

maintained, notice what specific

documents and/or financial in-

formation the auditors are re-

questing cannot be conveyed in

Yahola explained in the letter

that the auditors might be able

to accommodate a 24-hour no-

He also stated in the letter that

review of personnel files would

be a part of the audit in order to

verify salaries, appropriate ap-

provals and review related party

In the audit report, Grant

Thornton provided a timeline

of events in their effort to obtain

Auditors were on the MCN

campus the morning of Jan. 20

for access to the Nation's com-

puter servers. Shortly after ar-

riving, the auditors were denied

access due to previous discus-

sions between Tiger and MCN

The auditors held a meeting

with Tiger to discuss his con-

cerns. A letter was provided to

Tiger from Yahola during the

meeting, requesting specific ESI

including 25 email databases

as well as computer hard drive

copies for eight specified indi-

advance," Yahola said.

tice before they arrive.

transactions.

personnel.

"These are not accusations of

and/or destroyed.

viduals collectively from the Office of the Second Chief, Treasury and Housing Department.

Tiger signed the letter dated Jan. 20, agreeing to accommodate the auditors in this request.

Tiger said in an interview that the auditors assured him that they understood the tribe's sovereignty, but were not familiar with tribal government or MCN processes.

"Now, when it came to asking for emails of three years back of everyone on the campus, initially I thought OK, well we said we were going to do this in the spirit of cooperation," Tiger said. "And then I got to thinking about it, we have and are mandated by tribal, federal law to protect information concerning our citizens. So I approached the attorney general and asked him about that and asked him if he could do an opinion."

The timeline states Grant Thornton made arrangements to return to the complex the evening of Jan. 20 to copy ESI after business hours.

When they returned to the complex the MCN Information Technology Department informed the auditors that Tiger instructed them not to provide any access to ESI until told otherwise.

Grant Thornton continued other portions of the audit by obtaining financial documents and ESI from

MCN business entities, MNBE and MI.

The timeline

states

that

on Jan. 22,

the auditors were informed that Tiger and some of his staff decided that Grant Thornton would not be allowed access to obtain ESI.

Tiger explained the denial in a letter dated Jan. 26 that includes an opinion issued by MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley.

Reasons for the denial outlined in the memo consisted of: privacy and confidentiality protection, possibility of fines and sanctions against the Nation for privacy violations, children's identity in MCN custody, attorney client privilege and Health Department patient confidentiality.

"Based upon the serious nature of privacy violations resulting from disclosure of e-mail communications and the harsh consequences attached to their release, I recommend that you not release e-mails to the forensic auditors," Wiley said in his memo.

In an interview, Wiley explained the Nation risked losing federal grant money if all emails for the Nation's employees were turned over to the auditors.

Wiley stated he asked the Council to limit the scope for the ESI requests such as specific employees, individual departments or time frames, but that he never received a written response from the opinion he issued.

"Never once was I given that," Wiley said. "Had they done that I could've limited it and possibly provided that information, but they wanted everything and I would not agree to allow the Chief to produce all emails."

Yahola said the Council met to reach a consensus on what action to take. "We did have discussions on the audit... but we did not send the AG back a response to it," Yahola said.

Tiger said in an interview that the cost for the auditors to review the emails was also a con-

"It was costing us \$600 an hour... and for them to have to review all these emails at \$600 an hour, I just knew that as stewards of our tribal funds we should be more cognizant in how we are spending those monies," Tiger said.

Yahola said had the emails from the requested specific employees been reviewed, the cost of the audit could have increased.

"They (Grant Thornton) did send us a pay scale on those individuals that were going to be involved, and they had different rates because of their expertise," Yahola said.

Findings-Office of the Second Chief

In their review of the Office of the Second Chief, Grant Thornton found abnormal use of petty cash for calendar years 2012-2013.

"Generally, petty cash is a small amount of discretionary funds in the form of cash used for expenditures where it is not sensible to make disbursements by check, because of the inconvenience and costs of writing, signing and then cashing the check," the report states.

The auditors analyzed 54 petty cash transactions totaling \$95,000 between March 2012 and November 2013.

The coding for these transactions were labeled 'Donations' or 'Charitable Contributions.' The auditors found insufficient supporting documentation for the use of these funds.

Grant Thornton found 102 transactions totaling \$64,000 between March 2012 and December 2013 to purchase money orders coded as 'Wal-Mart,' 'Direct Assistance' or 'Donations.'

The auditors found insufficient supporting documentation for the use of these funds.

Purchases for personal benefit were also documented, including purchases for high-end laptop cases and professional sports team items.

Other financial irregularities were also noted in the Office of the Second Chief.

Copies of some items deemed abnormal are included in the audit report.

Findings-Office of the Controller

Grant Thornton found insufficient supporting documentation for a number of vendor payments through the Office of the Controller.

The report also notates insufficient documentation for travel expenses.

"In addition, reimbursements from the Office of the Principal Chief, Office of the Second Chief and the National Council were approved by the Office of the Controller without the necessary documents as outlined in the Travel Policies of the Nation," the report states.

Kilian said in an interview that specific instances for insufficient travel documentation was not provided by the audit, therefore she cannot verify which transaction the auditors are referring to or if there is documented justification.

During the 2012-2013 calendar years, the auditors found questionable monetary trans-

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AUDIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

fers between MCN departments, including one transfer of over \$275,000 from the Office of the Principal Chief to the Tribal Construction Department.

"Potentially these transfers have been utilized as a mechanism to expend more funds than budgeted for the Office of the Principal Chief without proceeding through the formal budget modification process which involves the National Council," the report states.

MCN Secretary of Interior Affairs Jeff Fife and Tiger agreed in an interview that the contract was inherited from the previous administration and was transferred to Tribal Construction for payment since it was a construction invoice.

"There was no law in place that said I couldn't do it that I know," Tiger said. "We do have budget mods. Recently the percentage for budget mods (modifications) were decreased from 20 percent to 10 percent."

In a veto override, the Council passed NCA 15-058 in April, decreasing budget line item adjustments requiring Council approval to those that exceed 10 percent of the programs' total approved budget per fund.

In an interview, Fife said the auditors did not discuss the construction invoice and funds transfer with him to obtain the reasoning.

During the analysis of financial documents, Grant Thornton found that splitting invoices to be paid out of several budget line items was practiced. Interviews conducted by the auditors indicated that this practice could have occurred in order to avoid exceeding the individual budget line items.

Tiger said this is no longer a utilized practice.

Kilian said the budget submitted prior to the fiscal year is just a best estimate of what the expenditures will be.

"So that, with the budget modifications, that's why that happens and if an expenditure exceeds that line item, programs are allowed to make that modification," Kilian said.

The report also indicates the Office of the Controller was aware of potential issues with finances and documentation in the Office of the Second Chief. The report states that the Office of the Controller advised the National Council in summer 2012, Office of the Principal Chief in the second part of 2013 and the Office of the Attorney General in spring 2014 of the concerns.

Tiger said he feels like he followed the process for alerting the attorney general.

"When I was told there was some issues with the second chief, I would go to the second chief and ask him to make sure that those things were taken care of. If that's knowing about it, then I did.

"But when it came down to major issues, and again being good stewards of our assets, at that time that I submitted the needed paperwork to the AG's Office to start whatever legal process that we have in place," Tiger said.

Wiley detailed in an interview specific dates when he was alerted and investigated the financial problem with the Office of the Second Chief. He stated that Tiger informed him on April 29, 2014 of a potential issue.

Wiley said he then went to discuss the issue with former Controller James Pratt.

"When I did, he acted nervous," Wiley said. "He closed his door, started shuffling his papers around telling me that he would get a packet together for me and he did that on May 2, 2014, three days after I had this meeting with him April 29."

Wiley said in an interview he spent about a week going through the documentation and gathering interviews and submitted the information to the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Up to that point, that day, that time, April 29, 2014, I'd never spoken to Mr. Pratt about any of this so his statement to the auditors that he informed me is false," Wiley said.

Findings-Office of the Principal Chief

Grant Thornton analyzed contracts with consultants and vendors paid out of the Office of the Principal Chief budget.

Due to limited access to ESI, the auditors were unable to further analyze contracts outside of financial statements.

A little over \$1.6 million was paid out to contracted individuals and vendors during calendar years 2012-2013.

Tiger said in an interview that as the CEO for MCN, he has the opportunity to contract out for services. He stated that he contracted Jennings David (J.D.) Colbert for financial advisory services.

"He was the one that encouraged us to buy RiverWalk. With that purchase, automatically our assets increased to about \$38 million because of that purchase," Tiger said. "Now, if you do the math, whatever I paid him certainly outweighs the jump in our assets because of his work."

According to the audit, Colbert was paid a total of \$592,605 during the 2012-2013 calendar years for his services.

Tiger said in an interview that the tribe had not consulted with financial and economic development experts previously. He also said that Colbert's work was not limited to the Office of the Principal Chief, but involved other departments within the Nation.

The auditors raised concerns over the limited documentation provided to document services performed, contracts for a retainer basis with monthly payments and limited documentation on details for hours worked, as well as a blurred line between contracted individuals and companies and full-time MCN employees.

"Particular consultants appeared to be acting as employees of the Nation as they regularly billed the Nation for the equivalent of 40+ hours per week and benefited from upfront payment of travel expenses by the Nation through travel advances," the report stated.

Tiger said each contract signed is reviewed by the attorney general and is considered carefully.

"As far as the blurred end of it, as long as I knew they were working, and it doesn't say anywhere in the law that allows me to do that that I had to have a certain system in place to be able to pay them," Tiger said. "But we have improved on that."

Tiger said in an interview that the Council has requested to have a more oversight over contracted employees and he now requests detailed documentation for services each contractor performs.

Other audit findings indicated excessive travel without supporting evidence of a business reason. The auditors notated

that the investigation into allegations of personal benefit for the RiverWalk business development in Jenks and OneFire Holding Company could not be performed due to limited access to ESI.

Findings-Department of Housing

Grant Thornton analyzed funds from the Department of Housing Proceeds of Sale account records, finding \$2.8 million combined in expenditures for calendar years 2012-2013.

The auditors determined through financial documentation and interviews that the expenses were warranted as related to normal Department of Housing functions.

The ESI documentation obtained by Grant Thornton did not support allegations of inappropriate housing benefits, abuse of waiting lists and conflicts of interest within the Department of Housing.

"... during interviews, we were advised that these family members are employed at compensation levels at or below equivalent market rates and that the Director of Housing has no influence on the remuneration of his family members working in the department," the report states.

Findings- National Council

The auditors investigated the National Council on allegations of excessive travel, inappropriate mileage reimbursement and conflict of interest within the organization.

Grant Thornton found insufficient documentation for travel expenses and through interviews conducted, inadequate oversight for mileage reimbursement.

In an interview with 'MNN,' Yahola said that the financial discrepancies occurred during the 2012-2013 calendar years, prior to his nomination as speaker.

"That was in the previous session because in that previous session, we had an individual that was the financial officer that just did not do his job, did not complete his work, did not follow up, and as a result he was dismissed," Yahola said.

Yahola said that he would be accountable for any discrepancies during his time as speaker, beginning Jan. 1, 2014. He said that since becoming speaker, the National Council has adhered to policies and procedures.

Findings- MNBE, MI and TCA

MNBE vendor invoices were found during the forensic audit lacking supporting documenta-

Credit card activity was also analyzed, which Grant Thornton found that policies and procedures for activity is different from that of MCN and may not be in compliance with the Nation's policies and procedures.

"To be clear, we did not find that MNBE employees were out of compliance, rather we found that MNBE is lacking policies comparable to the Nation," the report states.

Expenses examined included purchases for alcohol, meal expenses within Okmulgee and charges over the amounts allowed by the Nation's policies.

Conflicting reports from the National Council and MNBE on communication between the entities was documented.

"On the one hand, the National Council communicated that little to no information or reporting is received from MNBE. On the other hand, MNBE considers there to be a frequent level of communication and adequate

levels of financial reporting provided," the report states.

Grant Thornton states they were not able to investigate the matter entirely because of lack of ESI.

Conclusions

Tiger said he feels the executive branch did everything in their power to cooperate with the Council for the forensic audit.

"So, I guess in the end I feel like that we did everything that we could to be able to be transparent in terms of what they were asking for with the exception of the emails," Tiger said.

Tiger said he did not obstruct any of the forensic audit processes and that citizens should direct questions regarding the cost of the audit to the Council.

"I just think that we basically threw up some money and it blew in the wind, and that's money that we won't get back," Tiger said.

Tiger said he hopes everyone involved in this process has learned that there needs to be stronger lines of communication and the ability to trust one another.

Yahola said the auditors were not able to complete their examination, and so the report did not verify or disprove issues the Council had hoped to clear up.

"We didn't get anywhere with this forensic audit, and as a result, that's how this fact-finding committee came into being to take up that matter," Yahola said.

He clarified that if the audit had not been incomplete, the Council would not have sought answers through the fact-finding committee.

"We've had, you know, several discussions about that and they were not satisfied with the initial draft audit. Of course, some of that was because they were not able to obtain the information for the forensic audit," Yahola said.

He said the committee has issued subpoenas to several tribal employees to obtain information, some of which were accompanied by Executive Branch legal counsel Joe Williams.

"But since then, Mr. Williams has gone to the court here and has attempted to quash subpoenas that I had signed for other witnesses. But he said they were not timely and they were not presented to them individually and so now that's come before the court," Yahola said.

Williams said that the questioning conducted by the Council went beyond what the subpoena outlined.

"The statute that authorizes the subpoenas to be issued to employees or anyone also sets out that in certain cases a person could go to court to challenge the scope of the subpoena if necessary. It's all part of the same process," Williams said. "It's not really adversarial either. I mean, it's not chief versus the Council. It's just the judge asserting jurisdiction over what can be asked and what can be produced through these subpoenas."

Yahola and Williams said they are awaiting a ruling from MCN District Court Judge Gregory Bigler on the case.

The 'MNN' obtained documents from the court Oct. 15 and coverage is ongoing.

A majority of the information contained in this article can be found in the MCN Council Investigation by Grant Thornton. To view the audit, visit: www.mcnnc.com/images/Final%20-%20Muscogee%20Creek%20Nation%20Forensic%20Audit.pdf.

HELP WANTED

Needed, an information technology person who is able to communicate well verbally and written.

Must be able to create ways to store, organize and present data. Will be able to perform complex technical, analytical and professional services involving program services, database-driven web sites and office operations. Administer a variety of database systems.

Maintain and administer web and middleware tools. Test and coordinate modifications. Assume the technical lead for server and online database projects. Trouble-shoot and correct issues as they arise. Ensure system is running smoothly. Add new users to the system as needed. Plan and coordinate security measures as network administrators.

If you have these qualifications call: 918-759-7898 for an appointment. Indian preference.

Needed, a media specialist for the Waterloo Community School District.

Summary: To provide accessible tools for students and staff to direct, enhance and support the learning process.

Knowledge of curricular areas is essential in order to serve the interdisciplinary needs of the learning community.

It the goal of this position to work in a flexible environment, collaborating with staff, teaching skills to students and staff and maintain the holdings of the media center.

Qualifications: Effective oral and written communication skills. Able to demonstrate effective interpersonal relationships with students staff and parents. Able to organize, catalogue, display, distribute and produce instructional materials. Able to select and provide access to a wide variety of materials, which meet the needs of various learning situations. Knowledge and ability to teach information and technology literacy needed for independent learning. Able to provide an environment conducive to quick accessibility, good study habits and development of proficient media users. Knowledge of civil rights relating to free access to materials and copyright laws. Able to be flexible in order to accommodate teachers, students, parents/guardians and community members. Knowledge and ability to work with technology and assist integration in the classroom.

Education: Minimum bachelor of science or arts in elementary/secondary education including library science/media hours to meet state certification standards. Additional graduate work in related area is highly desired.

Certification: A valid State of Iowa certification in elementary or secondary education and appropriate media endorsement.

Experience: In elementary or secondary education and demonstrated knowledge of technology use and integration.

For more information including a list of responsibilities call the Waterloo Community School District at: 319-433-1800.

WAIVERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

waivers are apparently signed and dated by Tiger. The signature line on the fourth document is blank.

A fifth waiting list waiver was also obtained, which moved an individual up on the Housing waiting list citing a past misunderstanding. The memo is apparently signed and dated by MCN Housing Director Brad Fox

Some of the individuals that the waivers are for include elected officials, and current and former employees. The reasoning for each waiver varies from unsafe living conditions to keeping the home within the family.

Individual case files will differ depending on income, current housing situation and housing program applied for. The 'MNN' cannot independently verify if the individuals qualified for the corresponding program, and did not obtain files to verify the waiver justification.

Tiger said in an interview with 'NNT,' that the waivers are not a product of favoritism.

"There's no favoritism that's played with this Housing Authority," Tiger said. "Previously, in other administrations, I can't say that."

In an 'NNT' interview, Josie said he believes the waivers for these individuals go against HUD and MCN regulations.

"The main concern of mine is there's federal statutes that they're breaking and the chief has no authority whatsoever to break those statutes," Josie said.

Josie said that the procedure for obtaining a waiver from MCN to be moved up on the waiting list does not exist.

"There really is no process... But these waiver were drafted more or less out of thin air by Housing just so they can help these people they want to help," Josie said.

Tiger said there is a process in place to obtain a waiver, and that the principal chief is able to waive certain Housing policies at the recommendation of Housing in order to address housing needs.

"We have to look at the need for that individual's housing as it stands now," Tiger said.

In an 'NNT' interview, Fox said he does not approve the waivers on his own, but bases his recommendation on the findings of environmental inspectors and others who work with citizen housing needs.

Fox estimated that 5-10 waivers are issued per year for different housing programs.

"They're under all different types of circumstances and they're treated as different types of circumstances," Fox said.

Fox said the waivers are disclosed so that necessary parties such as the Council and HUD are aware.

"We're going to respond. We're not going to leave people out there that are in a dire need or in a situation where they actually need help and their only safe place to come is to the tribe. We respond to that every time," Fox said.

Tiger said Housing has gone through audits and there were no problems found with the waiver process.

"If we felt at any time that there was going to be an issue or problem with this, there would have never been a waiver," Tiger said.

Fox said the forensic audit conducted by the Council and annual audits through federal entities have not uncovered any issues

"We're looked at constantly. That money is important and it's important to our citizens and it's important that we protect it," Fox said.

Josie said he knows HUD and MCN Housing policy and procedures because he had to follow them in order to obtain his home.

The 'MNN' contacted HUD regarding regulations that govern federal housing funding and the allegations, but did not receive a response by press time.

The 'MNN' located a copy of Electronic Code of Federal Regulations dated Jan. 4, 2013 on the HUD website.

An updated version of E-CFR dated Oct. 30 was found at the U.S. Government Publishing Office website.

According to the newer version, Title 24, Subtitle B, Chapter IX, Part 1000.8 states provisions of the HUD Indian Housing Block Grant program may be waived.

'Upon determination of good cause, the Secretary (HUD) may, subject to statutory limitations, waive any provision of this part...' the provision states.

The version of MCN Code Annotated Title 24, Section 2-102 (C) available on the MCN Supreme Court website discusses the Housing operating policy and procedures.

The law states that policies are not in effect unless approved by the principal chief and Council.

TR 14-103 passed by the Council, describes the Housing policy.

The law states that eligible applicants are to be notified of eligibility and placed on the program waiting list. Applicants deemed ineligible are to be notified and advised of their right to appeal.

The law states the priority process for applicants added to the waiting list.

'Within each priority group, the applicants will be placed in chronological order, with the oldest application being first and the most recent application last.'

The law states that MCN will use a ranking preference based on parameters such as those applicants who are full-blood citizens, disabled or involuntarily displaced by natural disasters.

The law does not describe a waiver process, but refers to Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act and HUD regulations.

"These waivers aren't supposed to happen because we have a waiting list that we have to go by and no one is allowed to go up on top unless you get approval from HUD," Josie said. "And it has to be a pretty extenuating circumstance before HUD will give you that approval."

E-CFR Title 24, Subtitle B, Chapter IX, Part 1000.30 states that individuals who are part of the decision-making process or have inside information on housing activities or their immediate family are deemed conflict of interest parties, and unable to receive assistance.

However, the regulation also grants a waiver for conflict of interest parties in Part 1000.32, and states that public disclosure of the conflict must be made.

'HUD may make exceptions to the conflict of interest provisions... on a case-by-case basis

when it determines that such an exception would further the primary objective of NAHASDA.'

Tiger said that the conflict of interest waivers are disclosed.

"On any waivers there's a disclosure that's submitted and everyone involved sees that disclosure whether it's an employee or Council member before the waiver is given. Those disclosure should be knowledgeable by Council members because those disclosure are for them to be able to see as to why these things are going to happen," Tiger said. "This didn't just happen yesterday."

TR 05-086 passed by the Council, adopts a conflict of interest policy for individuals seeking Housing services.

The law states that examples of conflict of interest parties include Council representatives, MCN employees and their immediate families, but does not exclude them from seeking services if qualified as a low-income individual.

The law states that if the individual qualifies as low-income, that public disclosure of the services obtained and HUD notification is required.

It goes on to say that HUD approval is required for conflict of interest parties who do not meet the low-income eligibility requirements and that public disclosure of services is required.

Provisions of NAHASDA seek to provide housing to low-income, Native American families.

E-CFR Title 24, Subtitle B, Chapter IX, Part 1000.108-114 outlines waivers for non-low-income families.

There are stipulations depending on the individual's income, and vary.

For those in a higher income bracket, the regulation states that HUD must issue a waiver.

"...HUD will have 60 calendar days after receiving the proposal to notify the recipient in writing that the proposal to provide assistance to non-low-income families or for model activities is approved or disapproved."

The regulation goes on to say that the proposal is deemed approved if the tribe does not receive any notification from HUD within 60 days.

TR 05-030 passed by the Council, adopts an alternative housing policy for low-income and elderly citizens who qualify for the rehabilitation program and the cost for repair is not economically feasible. The law states that Housing will maintain a separate waiting list for this program.

The law does not address a waiting list waiver, but refers back to NAHASDA and HUD requirements.

The law states that proceeds of sale may be used if the repair cannot be made due to environmental issues or, 'if there is an eminent threat to the health and safety of the family to remedy the situation.'

Tiger said that the specific waiver addressed in the allegations for this program does not break federal law.

"On this particular house, I understand that there's some allegations of us breaking federal law... Federal law does not play in any role in that particular case," he said.

Tiger said that in the specific waiver, NAHASDA and federal money was not used to grant the citizen a home, but instead used funds from the Housing proceeds of sale account.

Title 24, Subtitle B, Chapter IX, Part 1000.62-64 defines housing program income. The

regulation also states that the funds can be used without federal discretion.

'Program income may be used for any housing or housing related activity and is not subject to other federal requirements.'

In the forensic audit requested by the Council and released to the public Oct. 2, the auditors reviewed financials for the Housing proceeds of sale account. In 2012, \$1.4 million was used for the alternative housing program and in 2013, \$631,226 was used for the program.

Fox said that the proceeds of sale account does not fall under federal program regulations.

"The proceeds of sale is just money that we collect from our properties and it's not tied back to the federal, it's just tied to the Housing Division and we can use those monies but we can only use them for housing activities," Fox said.

The audit states that invoices and explanations were obtained to support spending in the account.

'Our findings from these investigations were that the Proceeds of Sale expenditure appears to be related to the mission of the Department of Housing to provide Nation citizens with safe, efficient, and affordable housing.'

The audit elaborates that through their research, the funds were used to assist citizens who did not qualify for federal programs.

Josie was eliminated as a candidate for Tulsa District National Council Seat A in the Sept. 19 primary election, having not received a high enough percentage of votes to proceed to the general election Nov. 7.

Josie said the timing for the release of this information is not politically motivated.

"As far as me coming out with the allegations now, it has nothing to do with retaliation or anything of that nature," Josie said.

Tiger said that he believes the allegations have political motivations.

"It's unfortunate that this really has gotten to be a political issue, bar none," Tiger said. "I believe there's some issues with him personally in many ways that he has broken policy himself by putting out information that's very sensitive, very confidential for our people that are pretty much clients of Housing."

Tiger said he is upset at the accusations of favoritism and alleged illegal waivers.

"... We have some outstanding employees at our Housing Division. Many of them are our tribal citizens... Many of them are being called to a large degree as mistrusting or just being liars and I take offense to that personally being the principal chief of this great Nation," Tiger said.

To view E-CFR dated Oct. 30, visit: www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=a7b8e92e2b aeed4dbbce904e60c74d6b&m c=true&node=pt24.4.1000&rg n=div5.

Copies of TR 14-103, TR 05-030 and TR 05-086 can be obtained by contacting the MCN National Council at: 918-758-1410.

Updated coverage will appear in the MNN Dec. 1 edition and has been posted to the MNN Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/MuscogeeNationNews.

Program helps citizens achieve healthier lifestyle

Walking assists with prevention, management of diabetes

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

EUFAULA, Okla. — What is the one thing many people do every day that can be the gateway to a healthier lifestyle? The answer is walking.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Diabetes Prevention Program began a health initiative based on this in 2006 with a focus on adults.

"We do a lot of programs that focus on prevention and our youth but we wanted to do something that focuses on adults and what they can do to get back in shape," MCN DPP Exercise Program Manager Kimberlee Little said.

DPP did research on what they can do to help adults prevent and manage diabetes.

"Out of the research, we developed our own plan and what we thought was best for our citizens," Little said.

What came from the research was Nene Hvkoce ('trails' in the Mvskoke language).

According to a Diabetes Prevention Study in 2002 by the National Institutes of Health, walking can keep people healthy.

Scientific studies have shown that regular brisk walking prevents and cures many of today's ailments.

One of the most important studies showed that walking can prevent diabetes.

"Because of the negative impact that diabetes has on our citizens, is the reason why we initiated this walking program," Little said. "We feel that walking is a great start to the goals that our citizens can achieve."

Little has worked for DPP since 2005 so she has been with the walking program since its inception.

She feels that it is a learning process each year with the program.

"We look at the pros and cons and see what is good and not good for the program," Little said. "We tweak it and we do our best to make it better every year."

Little hopes that citizens keep walking after completing the program.

"We do not want them to quit even when that period of time is done," Little said. "We want them to continue, work hard and keep reaching goals."

She also hopes that they make new goals upon finishing others. "It is a never ending process,"

Little said.

Although the program focuses on adults, it has also spurred

family participation.

"We have families and although their children are not old enough, they are walking because their parents are," Little said. "Everyone is pushing everyone."

Participant Amber Baldwin, spoke about how the program has held her accountable.

"The walking program has helped my family become more aware of our physical activity," Baldwin said. "My family has participated in numerous 5k runs that we would have never done until we started this program."

The walking program will begin again Jan. 1, 2016 and recruitment begins in November.

For more information contact MCN DPP at: 918-756-2240.

MCN helps families in need with bills



Internet image

With assistance, family overcomes hardship

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — If you only had enough money to pay your rent, or your electric bill, which one would you pay?

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Services Department's mission is to help citizens who have fell on hard times and face similar situations.

One family, who wished to remain anonymous, shared their story.

"We made the drive from Oklahoma City, not knowing if we were going to be getting any assistance," she said. "We knew we needed help so we hoped for the best."

They came to SS to see if they could get help and met their caseworker Tishia Sewell.

"Being out of jurisdiction, they only qualified for the hardship program," Sewell said., "which gave them two choices."

Sewell said that their choices were either get their rent paid with no electricity or get their electricity paid and get put out on the streets.

"One of their children is on a ventilator so they have to have electric for him," Sewell said. "They were leaning towards going for the electric and hoping their landlord will let them stay."

The family had a tough choice to make.

"They were very appreciative with the assistance that they were going to be getting," Sewell said. "They were not sure on which choice to make."

They tried to make arrangements to get the situation worked out.

"She told me that she was trying to pick up extra shifts at her work to see if they can get any extra money," Sewell said. "They were doing everything possible because they didn't want to put the assistance money to waste."

They were never able to use any of the assistance and unfortunately for the family, their problems worsened when they were told to vacate their house.

The family was homeless, so they packed whatever that could fit in their vehicle and set on their way to Okmulgee.

What made it worse for the family was on that hot July weekend that they left Oklahoma City and came to Okmulgee, it was one of their children's birthday.

The family came to Okmulgee Lake not telling the children that they were homeless.

"They told the kids that they were going camping for their son's birthday," Sewell said. "They spent the weekend at the lake. Which made it hard for some of their pets due to the heat."

The parents did what they could to keep a barrier around the children so they would not know what was happening.

"They came in the following Monday and they were very upset at the situation," Sewell said. "They were back to square one so they had absolutely nothing new."

Since the family was considered homeless, and 'living' within the MCN jurisdiction, it opened the door to other assistance that the department provides.

Being in the situation that the family was in, they now qualified for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act program which, according to the MCN website, provides assistance with shelter and utility cost to low income Native American families who have experienced an unanticipated break in income and/or other extenuating circumstances.

"They brought in the required documentation that they needed to get assistance with this program," Sewell said.

With this program, applicants requesting assistance must have the ability to maintain expenses.

"So the family was looking for work in and around the Okmulgee area," Sewell said.

The light started to get brighter at the end of the tunnel as the father was able to find work almost immediately after he started looking.

The mother's employer knew of their situation and requested a transfer to a position closer to Okmulgee.

Both the husband and wife found new jobs and with the help of SS they were able to find a house.

"Both of them found jobs pretty fast, which in today's time is amazing," Sewell said. "The family ended up finding a house and we were able to help them with assistance for the house."

The citizen was pleased with the lengths that the SS department went to help her family. She said her family had nothing left and was at the end of their rope until they received assistance from SS.

"We explained to them our situation," she said. "We told them everything and they helped us out. We can't thank them enough."

She said that although they are getting back on their feet, they feel better knowing that they are starting a new life with their family intact.

"We are getting settled down now," she said. "We are in a new place and rebuilding our lives and we could not have done it without their help."

They are expecting another an addition to their family soon.

"There is light at the end of the tunnel," Sewell said.

MIC BOARD ELECTION SET FOR NOV. 19

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee Indian Community has set a special board election for Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EVENT SET FOR NOV. 21

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church has set the Native Flair arts and crafts event for Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information call: 918-834-1956, 918-230-3181 or email: tulsaindianUMC@outlook.com

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DEADLINE SET NOV. 22

ANADARKO, Okla. — Rock Springs Indian Baptist Church is asking for donations of: clothes, toys and school and personal items to take to To'hajiilee Indian Baptist Church on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.

The deadline to submit is Nov. 22.

For more information call J. C. Smith at: 405-243-6159 or Terry Fish at: 918-313-0407.

NATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET SET DEC. 12

SAPULPA, Okla. — The fifth annual Native American Christmas Market is set for 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Dec. 12 at the Elks Lodge, 24 S. Poplar Ave., Sapulpa, OK 74066.

The featured artist will be Tim Nevaquaya and concessions will be handled by Autumn Star Catering. For more information, call Tricia Alexander at: 918-998-4549.

TCIC ELECTION SET FOR DEC. 15

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election for the secretary and treasurer board positions for Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m.

The deadline for letters of intent and \$20 for background checks is Nov. 19 by 5 p.m.

For questions or more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.

JOM offers AP testing financial assistance

MCN JOM/Media Release

OKMUGLEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training is offering financial assistance to Muscogee (Creek) students to take advance placement exams.

The program will pay for up to five exams per year.

Applicants must reapply annually.

All checks must be made out to the applicant's site or reimbursed to the place in which they will take the exam.

Students who do not attend the required testing date will be responsible for the unused testing fee.

Those who fail to attend will be ineligible to receive further incentives until the Johnson O'Malley office receives payment.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 29, 2016

For more information including eligibility requirements, call JOM at: 918-732-7840 or email: abattenfield@mcn-nsn.gov.

AUGUSTINE HARJO



OKEMAH, Okla. — Augustine Harjo was born Aug. 8, 1933 and went to be with the Lord Aug. 31 at the age of 82. She was a former resident of Wetumka and in 1992, Augustine and her husband Leonard relocated to Okemah. Augustine was baptized at Greenleaf Baptist Church. She was a Christian woman and attended church regularly, always looking forward to Sunday attending church. Often, she'd ask Leonard, 'are we going to church this Sunday?' It would be early in the week so church was something she really looked forward to. As a young girl, she attended Eufaula and Carter Boarding Schools. Later on in life, she worked at the Seampruff sewing factory in Holdenville until it closed, and then became a homemaker. Augustine dearly loved her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She always enjoyed spending time with her family, and going to watch her grandchildren and great grandchildren play sports, no matter what the weather was,

she always wanted to be there.

She was their biggest fan. At family get togethers, she always thought of our dad (grandpa), she would always say if he's not too tired maybe we can come. She always put everybody's needs before hers. As her health began to fail, she became an avid Sooner fan and OKC Thunder fan. Her family was her greatest joy, which she adored and loved so much.

Augustine was proceeded in death by her: parents, Johnson Harjo and Nancy Tiger Harjo; daughter, Molly Harjo; son, Harold Harjo; granddaughter, Sheena Harjo; sisters, Wanda Wesley, Alice Roberts and Nancy Nibs; and brother, Geronimo Harjo.

She is survived by her: husband of 59 years, Leonard Harjo of the home; sons, Harry Harjo and wife Mahaley of Wetumka and Herman Harjo of Holdenville; daughters, Bessie Fields of Sapulpa, Lenora Deere and husband, James of Wetumka and Pam Harjo of Glenpool; daughter-in-law, Pat Harjo of Oklahoma City; sisters, Pauline Levi, Oklahoma City, Delores Bonitz, Okmulgee, Geneva Barnes, Tulsa, Delores Thompson, San Francisco; 21 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, two greatgrandchildren on the way; special family friends: Annie Mae Harjo and Bobby Lena; also Andy Chisolm, who she thought of as a grandson, but a lot of people called her grandma, too numerous to count as well as a host of family and friends.

Funeral services were set for Sept. 3 at Randall Indian Baptist Church. She will was laid to rest at Harjo family cemetery.

Pastor Tim Lowe will be officiated with George Harjoche assisting.

Pallbearers were: Stephen Harjo, Jason Harjo, Michael Fields, Adrian Harjo, Patrick Randall, Russell Harjo. Honorary pallbearers were: the rest of her grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

Angel Tree offers participants giving, children happiness

Program aims to get every angel adopted

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Children and Family Services Administration hosted their 17th annual Angel Tree event Nov. 2 to help provide gifts to underprivileged and at-risk children who receive CFSA assistance.

"The Angel Tree started as a way to help our children who are in tribal custody or receiving services through our Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program," CFSA Tribal Reunification Program Manager Beky Baker said. "All the kids that we help are at risk of abuse and neglect or removed from the home due to abuse or neglect."

The Angel Tree has all the children (angels) on the tree with a list of what they would

like for Christmas so that people from the community, employees of the tribe and other organizations can know and get that child what they want for Christmas.

"We know everyone wants to give the children a Christmas," Baker said. "They open their hearts and do whatever they can to give that to them."

Baker also said that a lot of the children think about Christmas all year so her program wants to give the children their favorite holiday and make it as normal as they can for them.

There are 60 angels on the tree this year, down from 95 last holiday season.

"That is a great thing," Baker said. "It means that there are less kids in custody and that is a great feeling."

According to Baker, the angels range from newborn babies to those 17 years-of-age.

"We just want them to have the spirit of Christmas upon them," Baker said.

Baker said last year, all angels were picked up within a week of the tree being put up.

"We hope that this year will be the same," Baker said.

The Angel Tree Project will conclude with a party Dec. 17, for the angels.

"It is great for the kids because

Santa Claus will be there passing

out gifts to our angels," Baker

said. "The party is another excit-

ing part of seeing these kids be kids and enjoy Christmas."

All donations and gifts will need to be returned by Dec. 1., to MCN CFSA in the Community Services Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, or by mail to: MCN CFSA at PO

Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447. For more information call Beky Baker with CFSA at: 918-732-7869.

JUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Emvpanayv — One who tells the story

Columbus Day, the presidential campaign and MCN free press

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — If this column seems a bit out date, I got bumped again. But there's still some good stuff here, some old, some new.

The last month was full of Columbus Day stuff and R-word rejections. I know, I know, both are old stories but worth paying attention to as they are significant.

Several cities around the nation have changed that holiday to Indigenous Peoples' Day, in recognition of our ancestors.

Count among them Seattle, Minneapolis, Albuquerque, N.M., Portland, Ore., St. Paul, Minn., Olympia, Wash., and several others.

Oklahoma City almost had an Indigenous Day but missed out by a narrow margin in the city council. South Dakota took some action and changed things. Most recently, Alaska Gov. Bill Walker made the change there during the state's largest Native convention.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation observed this day with a proclamation declaring Oct. 12, 2015 as Indigenous Peoples' Day, "in commemoration of five hundred years of survival and renewal of Native cultures in the face of

Emvpanayv - 4

Protest period ends for general election



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Service Office hosted the Pass-In-Review March Nov. 10 on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee, Okla., to commemorate the newly elected MCN government officials

L to r: MCN National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola, MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks, MCN Principal Chief Elect James Floyd and MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

Candidates issue statements in lieu of results

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The protest period for the 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation general election held Nov. 7 has ended with James Floyd taking 62.34 percent of the votes according to the official results.

Floyd shared his sentiments through a Nov. 8 Facebook post.

'You voted for me because you believed that MCN can be better. I ask for your continued help and support going forward, he said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger issued a statement on Facebook Nov. 7 after all the polls closed and reported in.

'I'm proud that we will leave the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in a lot better shape than we found

it four years ago...My office will be open to assisting in transition with Mr. Floyd as he prepares to take office, he said.

Incumbents MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks and Muskogee District Rep. Pete Beaver ran unopposed.

Further Council incumbents: David Hill of the Creek District, Robert Hufft of the Tulsa District, Johnnie Greene of the Wagoner District and Darrell Proctor of the McIntosh District will return to their seats.

Del Beaver will replace Okmulgee District Rep. David Nichols who was eliminated as a principal chief candidate in the Sept. 19 primary.

Randall Hicks ousted Rep. Franklin Coachman in the Okfuskee District and Rufus Scott will take Rep. Shirlene Ade's seat in the Tukvpvtce District.

Two constitutional

amendments were also approved.

The first forbids those who have been convicted of a felony against MCN from running for principal chief or second chief.

The second forbids those who have been convicted of a felony against MCN from running for a Council seat.

The inauguration ceremony for MCN principal chief, second chief and the 19th session of the MCN National Council is set for Jan. 2, 2016 from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. at the Mvskoke Dome, 2950 Warrior Rd., Okmulgee,

In accordance with the MCN Constitution, the new terms for the Executive Branch will begin Jan. 4, 2016. The Constitution states the Council terms will begin at the first meeting following the first day of January where the elected representatives will take the oath of office.

Court decision awaited on Fact **Finding Committee** inquiries

Executive, legislative branches disagree on use of employee subpoenas

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In response to the findings in the forensic audit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the National Council Fact Finding Committee issued subpoenas to several tribal employees to obtain further information.

In a previous interview with the 'Muscogee Nation News,' Council Speaker Thomas Yahola explained the Council's reasoning for seeking to clear up alleged issues.

"We've had, you know, several discussions about that and they were not satisfied with the initial draft audit," Yahola said. "Of course, some of that was because they were not able to obtain the information for the forensic audit."

Yahola is not a member of the Fact Finding Committee.

A petition for a protective order was filed at the MCN District Court Aug. 13 by MCN Executive Branch legal counsel Joe Williams.

In a previous interview with 'MNN,' Williams said this action should not be seen as adversarial.

"The statute that authorizes the subpoenas to be issued to employees or anyone also sets out that in certain cases, a person could go to court to challenge the scope of the subpoena if necessary. It's all part of the same process.

"It's not really adversarial either. I mean, it's not Chief versus the Council. It's just the judge asserting jurisdiction over what can be asked and what can be produced through these subpoenas," Williams said.

The 'MNN' obtained documents regarding the case from the court Oct. 15.

The initial petition requested four subpoenas issued by the Fact Finding Committee July 27 to employees of the MCN Housing Department, Treasury Department and Fleet Management to be quashed or modified and outlines the reasoning behind the request.

The initial petition quotes MCN Code Annotated Title 30, Sections 8-106 and 8-108.6, that deal with subpoenas by the Council.

Decision - 4

Council, Ade, HUD, MCN AG address Housing concerns

NAHASDA warranty deed reviewed under funding source inquiry

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In coverage that ran in the Nov. 15 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News,' former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Department employee Rodney Josie outlined what he believed to be potential violations of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as MCN regulations.

In this coverage, Josie alleged these violations occurred through waivers used by the department to move certain citizens up on the waiting list for housing assistance.

Josie initially made concerns regarding the waiver process public through social media and during the Oct. 31 National Council quarterly session.

'MNN' obtained five waivers that appear to be on MCN letterhead and several of which were signed by either MCN Housing Department Secretary Brad Fox and/or MCN Principal Chief George Tiger for individuals including elected officials as well as current and former employees.

In coverage by 'Native News Today, Josie went into further details regarding a waiver for Council Rep. Shirlene Ade.

"It all started back a few years ago whenever Chief Tiger first took office," Josie said. "Mr. Brad Fox, Secretary of Housing asked me if I would go to councilwoman Shirlene Ade's house and make sure I

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Amanda Rutland/MNN

Attendees of the Indian Fall Festival hosted Nov. 14 by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department browse wares from local vendors at the Mvskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee, Okla.

Tourism Department hosts annual Indian Fall Fest

Event features arts, crafts and competition

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department hosted the annual Indian Fall Festival Nov. 14 at the Myskoke Dome on the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

TR Director Will Lowe said the Indian Fall Festival was a community event in the Okmulgee and Tulsa area about 15-20 years ago and TR revived it four years ago at the

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FALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

suggestion of MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

"Our idea was to initially get the vendors here so, we could get early Christmas ideas for people and you know all of our vendors are local," Lowe said.

This year, the event was held inside the Dome instead of outdoors in case of inclement weather.

Lowe also saw it as an opportunity to showcase the building.

The event featured bounce houses for children as well as arts and crafts including Mvskoke basket weaving.

"The kiddos can sit, make a basket and take it home and be proud of that, that they have learned that at the Indian Fall Fest," Lowe said.

IFF vendors had a variety of items for purchase, from finger-woven stompdance belts and wooden flutes to handmade soy candles and baked goods.

The event also featured a frybread contest and new this year was a chili cook-off.

Lowe said his favorite part of the festival is the cook-offs.

"Frybread is a big thing in our culture of course. Everybody always brags and says they have the best frybread," Lowe said.

Instead of having judges for the chili cook-off, attendees voted on the best chili.

"We have \$5 chili kits and everyone is going to get a taste and vote and the people's choice will be the winner," Lowe said.

Della Proctor won the \$1,000 prize for the frybread contest. The first place chili cook-off winner Tammy Rabbitt received \$500, second place winner Barbara Sands received \$300, third place winner Yonne Tiger received \$200 and Ryan Logan received \$50 for the 'Judge's Best Tasting

MCN holds third annual Education and Career Expo

Department aims to help students and adults

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training held their third annual Education and Career Expo Nov. 5 at the Myskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

The morning started with students from various high schools located within the MCN jurisdiction visiting with different college representatives and businesses about the careers they are interested in.

"We want our kids to see what is out there after high school," MCN Career Specialist Jessinna McBee said. "Whether they want to go to college or get into the job market right away, we want them to be exposed to it so they can have a better understanding."

McBee also said there were different community and college resources available to help students after high school.

In the afternoon, it was the adults' turn as they showed up to talk with representatives about going to school or getting an occupation.

One of the businesses seeking applicants was Onefire Holding Company LLC. OHC is advertising over 400 jobs for other businesses that they are investing in or own and oper-

"We are doing everything to get the word about the jobs that we have available," OHC CEO Mike Payne said. "We want to help get people to work."

Payne said some of the different jobs they are advertising are senior sales executives, welders as well as waiters and waitresses among others.

"We are using these opportunity to expose the job openings that some of our companies have," Payne said.

McBee was excited about the positive turnout from youth

"We had nearly 450 students make the trip today and we had a lot more representatives and vendors than we did last year so our department was very happy for that," McBee said."

McBee said those who still want to submit resumes can get in contact with her.

"We want our citizens to work," McBee said. "I want to help as many as I can."

For more information, call McBee at: 918-732-7800.

Payne echoed these sentiments. Resumes may also be sent to: careers@onefireholding.com.

Behavioral Health Services hosts Red Ribbon Day



Jessica McBride/MNN

Students take fun photos during the Red Ribbon Day event hosted Oct. 29 by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services at First Baptist Church in Okemah, Okla.

Substance abuse awareness event brought to Okemah students

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKEMAH, Okla. — Students from Okemah Public Schools were treated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Services to a Red Ribbon Day event Oct. 29 at First Baptist Church in Okemah.

The Red Ribbon Campaign sponsored by the National Family Partnership, began Red Ribbon Week in 1985 to provide drug awareness education to youth. This year around the U.S., Red Ribbon Week was observed Oct. 23-31.

about making healthy choices, took fun photos and were entertained by motivational speaker Brian Jackson.

Jackson, who is Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek) and Seminole, is a 12 time Guinness World Record Holder.

He has also been featured on 'Stan Lee's Super Humans' and 'America's Got Talent.'

During the presentation, Jackson created balloon animals, encouraged students to strive for the impossible and shared his experience with the pressures of drug use.

Jackson explained that in school, his best friend offered marijuana to him.

"Nobody prepared me for At the event, students learned one day my best friend would

offer me an impossible situation where I could not feel like I could say no to," Jackson said.

Jackson said that saying yes that day changed his whole life.

"One of the other decisions you're going to have to make in life is what kind of friends you have," Jackson said. "Do you want the kind of friends that offer you something that's wrong, that's illegal, that'll get you in a lot of trouble, or do you want the kind of friend that's supportive of you?"

Jackson said that he received a second chance, and decided to change directions in his life.

"I'm not a strong man. I'm not a power lifter. I'm nobody special," Jackson said. "I'm somebody that made a lot of mistakes when I was younger, but I learned from those mistakes."

At the end of his presentation, Jackson used his breath to blow up a hot water bottle as students chanted, 'I believe,' until it exploded.

Jackson will attempt to break his record for the heaviest vehicle lifted with breath Dec. 12 in Tahlequah.

For more information about Brian Jackson, visit: www. ibelieveguy.com.

For more information about MCN Behavioral Health Services, call: 918-224-9307.

Citizen selected for '40 Under 40' award

Beaver recognized for helping community, Nation

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development recently announced the 'Native American 40 Under 40' award winners for 2015.

Terra Beaver, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Social Security Assistance Program Office Manager was among the awardees.

According to the NCAIED's website, this prestigious award is bestowed upon individuals under the age of 40, nominated by members of their communities, who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, dedication and made significant contributions in business and their community.

Beaver knew about the award from reading about other citizens who won in previous years.

"I read about them yearly when some of our people would get selected," Beaver said.

Beaver said she was honored

to even be nominated. "That was the shock is when

I got nominated," Beaver said. "This is what I do everyday. It is normal for me." Beaver, was nominated for

the award by MCN Secretary of Community and Human Services Cherrah Giles.

Giles was amazed by all the work Beaver does on a daily ba-

"When it came time to do the nomination, Terra just kept coming to my mind," Giles said. "She just embodied everything that the award committee looks

Beaver said she always has wanted to help in anyway pos-

From a young age, she wanted to do what she could to help oth-

"That is me," Beaver said. "It is who I want to be."

Beaver said she is still surprised about the honor.

"It was funny because I was on my way to Tulsa; my phone kept going off with texting and calls," Beaver said. "It was at the bottom of my purse so everyone

had to wait until I stopped but it was all my friends and coworkers telling me congratulations on being selected."

Beaver thought she was out of her league when she was selected because of the other winners.

"To see these people get selected and then there is me," Beaver said. "I always thought you had to be an elected official, director or in some executive position. So it was a big honor to be among this group."

She realized that it is not about titles.

"It is a humbling experience that I was recognized for doing work in our community," Beaver said. "Those things usually go unnoticed, so when this happened, it reminds me to keep doing what I am doing and continue helping as much as I can."

Beaver and the rest of the award winners were officially honored during the 40th Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards Gala Nov. 18, in Santa Fe, N.M.

For more information about the event, go to: http://res. ncaied.org.

MUSCOGEE NATIONS

INTERIM MANAGER

JASON SALSMAN jsalsman@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST **GARY FIFE**

gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov



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Darren DeLaune/MNN

Actors Tonantzin Carmelo and Michael Spears host the American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show Nov. 14 at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.

40th annual Native film festival held

'Dawes Commission' nominated

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO — The 40th annual American Indian Film Festival and American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show was held Nov. 14, at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco.

There were 12 different awards presented for categories such as 'Best Film', 'Best Director' and 'Best Actor'.

'Mekko' by Seminole Nation citizen Sterlin Harjo and the 'The Dawes Commission' by late Muscogee (Creek) citizen Bob Hicks were among the nomi-

Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola was at the event on behalf of the cast and crew of 'The Dawes Commission.' Yahola is Hicks' nephew and described the nomination in one word.

"Exuberant," Yahola said. "Bob has always wanted to make a film in our native language and with Native characters and he got his wish. What is even more amazing was that it was nominated to these awards."

'Mekko' won a total of four awards for 'Best Film,' 'Best Actor, 'Best Supporting Actor' and 'Best Supporting Actress.'

Harjo did not attend the event but 'Mekko' actor Ron Rondeaux accepted the awards on

Mvskoke Media Film Festival award winner Mark Williams was on-hand for the ceremony. His film, 'Violet,' was nominated for 'Best Actor' and 'Best Actress.

"It is a blessing seeing some of the actors in the film getting recognized for their work," Williams said. "They did so much work and had so many sacrifices to help make this movie. I am happy for them and that they are getting the recognition for what they are doing."

AIFISF Founder and Director Michael Smith said he is overjoyed for the festival to be entering its fourth decade.

"This is very inspiring on what we have done and what we will continue to do," Smith said. "This awards show is a culmination of all the hard work that everyone puts in. My staff, the directors and actors, we all have a part in making this a success."

Award winning actress Irene Bedard who has starred in such films as 'Smoke Signals' and the television show 'Longmire' said that more and more American Indians are sharing their perspectives on screen.

"Our people want to tell these stories," Bedard said. "They want to tell of our culture and share our beauty and stories. I am excited about that and excited about them."

For more information on the film festival go to: www.aifisf. com.

Group works to end domestic violence

Okfuskee County team seeks to change community

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 49 percent of women and 40 percent of men in Oklahoma have experienced violence from a current or former intimate partner.

From her work in Louisiana and Oklahoma, Okfuskee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Donna Abney said that domestic violence is a problem across

According to the 2013 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation State of Oklahoma Uniform Crime Report, 22,801 domestic abuse reports were filed in Oklahoma.

Abney and other law enforcement agents are many times the first ones to respond to a domestic violence incident.

She feels it is her duty to help victims and make a change in society to end domestic violence in the community.

"This is an area that I feel like I'm called to handle and to be a part of to try to help as many people as I can get out of situations that are being abused," she said.

In each encounter with a domestic violence victim, Abney

gives them an information packet The only way that we can stop it is to work together." with advocate and shelter details and calls a Muscogee Nation (Creek) Family Violence

Prevention Program advocate on their behalf.

FVPP services are available to Native and non-Native individuals.

Abney is also part of the Okfuskee County Coordinated Community Response Team that helps to educate the community on domestic violence issues and works with other professionals to address problems in the justice system.

FVPP has organized three teams across in Okfuskee, Hughes and McIntosh counties.

"As we worked in rural counties, we found that one advocate or one system alone cannot solve all the problems/ barriers created by domes-

tic violence and sexual assault," FVPP Sexual Assault Advocate Mitzi Pope said. The teams consist of indus-

try professionals who handle domestic violence incidents including law enforcement, attorneys and advocates.

"Since we often rely on nontribal law enforcement and courts to provide protection safety and justice for our citizens, we found that it was critical that we work with these agencies to develop partnerships to improve the responses to victims and ensure offender accountability," FVPP Director Shawn Partridge said.

Pope said the program helped initiate monthly meetings with

- Okfuskee County Coordinated Community Response

Team Member Donna Abney

"The need for a coordinated

systemic response to victims of

domestic violence and sexual

assault is critical to enhancing

victim safety and increasing of-

fender accountability," she said.

"Together, team members iden-

tify local resources, expertise

and power to respond to these

crimes in a way that provides

safety and compassion to vic-

tims and accountability for per-

Abney said this coordination

has helped fill a gap and find

solutions to problems in the sys-

I've gotten to work with the ad-

vocates," Abney said. "They kind

of perform the glue to the jigsaw

"This is in fact the first time

petrators."

key community agencies.

puzzle so to speak."

In her law enforcement career, she has seen a hole in the justice system where the victim is forgotten or even further victimized by having to face their accuser on the witness stand.

Internet image

The team works together on brainstorming ideas to get the documentation they need to prosecute offenders without forcing the victim to testify, and helps empower the victim so that they do not feel as if they are stuck in a violent situation.

"They have options and that there is help, and that no matter what situation you're in, there is a way out of that situa-

> tion and we can help you get out if that's what you want to do," Abney said.

She is excited to be able to

work closely with FVPP advocates and for the potential to make a change in society and Okfuskee County.

Abney said that the CCR Team gives her hope that the domestic violence wound in communities will be healed in the future.

"The only way that we can stop it is to work together," she said.

To learn more about the Community Coodinated Response Teams or to seek help from an advocate, call MCN FVPP at: 918-732-7869.

For assistance after hours, call the Lighthorse Tribal Police Department at: 918-732-7800, and ask to speak with the on-call advocate.

A MCN Citizen

Owned Business

his behalf.

OU program aims to attract students

Curriculum designed to help explain Native American law

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The University of Oklahoma College of Law is aiming to attract more students to their Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law Program, which is targeted at giving a better understanding of tribes legal systems to those who work for or with them.

According to the OU law website, the program offers a strong foundation in Native American law for anyone who deals with contracts, negotiations or any other issues that demand knowledge of Native American self-governance issues, policy, regulation or business practices.

The MLS- Indigenous Peoples Law Program was launched in 2013 and is a 33 credit hour program that can be taken in 12 months as a full-time student or 21 months as a part-time student.

OU Faculty Director for the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy Dr. Lindsay Robertson spoke about the program.

"We graduated our first test class; we graduated our first cohort last year at the law school graduation," Robertson said.

The graduate curriculum is

unique in that it prepares students for all legal aspects in Native American tribal government and economic work.

"Each class is structured to run approximately seven weeks. The majority of students will take one class at a time," Robertson said. "The masters program is all online... we videotape lectures; we have monitored discussion threads; we have assignments every week."

The program is broke down into 10 modules, with classes ranging from the History of Federal Indian Law and Policy, Native American Natural Resources, Religion, Culture and Indian Law, Federal Indian Water Law, Indian Gaming Laws and Regulations and more.

"What we've done, is to take our entire law school Indian law program and spread it out and reteach it so that it's accessible to people who didn't have formal legal training," Robertson said. "Tribal government officials among them, tribal leaders and people who work with tribes."

To apply, go online and fill out an application.

Applicants must submit a resume, personal statement, letter of recommendation and official transcripts.

For more information including deadlines to apply visit: www.law.ou.edu or call the OU College of Law at: 405-325-4699.



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DECISION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The subpoenas included in the initial petition request that the individuals appear before the committee, and also request including: documentation housing records for three specified Muscogee (Creek) citizens, budget reclassifications, contract and financial information on the Muscogee (Creek) history class taught to employees, travel documents and policies and procedures for the previously specified departments and programs.

A motion requesting emergency hearing on the petition was filed Aug. 13 in the District Court.

An order denying the emergency hearing request was signed by District Court Judge Greg Bigler and filed by the court clerk Aug. 14. The order explained the denial.

'Based on the failure of the motion to allege sufficient facts illustrating compliance with the requirement of MCNA Title 30, Section 8-108(6), specifically giving written notice to the National Council Secretary contesting the subpoenas and the individuals appearing at subpoenas' time, date and objecting thereto, the Court hereby denies the Motion for Emergency Hearing on Petition for Protective Order.'

An amended petition for a protective order was filed Sept. 8, and includes the four previously outlined subpoenas.

The amended petition also adds seven subpoenas for employees of the MCN Information Technology Department, Public Relations Department, Family Violence Prevention Program, Human Resources Department, Office of the Principal Chief and Employment and Training Department as well as a former employee from Employment and Training.

One of the additional subpoenas was issued July 27, five of them issued Aug. 6, and one of them was not dated. The seven subpoenas request information including: the reasoning behind the denial of information to the forensic auditors and testimony for, 'an investigation into the creation and implementation of the Nation's sexual harassment policies and procedures.'

The amended petition includes correspondence between Williams, Council Secretary Kristie Sewell and Council attorney Zeke Fletcher, contesting the subpoenas and hearings, as well as cancelation notices for hearings by the Council.

The amended petition references MCN Supreme Court Case SC 2005-03, Ellis v. National Council in its motion to quash or modify the subpoenas.

'The committee is not an agency of the Nation's law enforcement or the Nation's prosecutor's office, so the Committee does not have the constitutional authority to conduct investigations that touch on inappropriate or illegal use of funds. Any allegations of this nature should be turned over to the Nation's Attorney General office for investigation.'

A notice of hearing was filed Sept. 9, scheduling a court date for Sept. 28.

A response to the amended petition was filed Sept. 23 by Fletcher, outlining the timeline of events and reasoning behind the subpoenas.

'At no point, has the Committee stated that the purpose of these subpoenas, the investigation, and any hearings conducted is to determine whether any laws were broken. The Committee's focus remains on using its legislative authority to determine what existing laws, if any, could be amended or what new laws should be put in place to prevent illegal or inappropriate uses of funds.

'Certainly, in the event the Committee came into possession of information about potential crimes, the proper law enforcement official or department would be notified.'

The response calls into question, items outlined in the amended petition, such as the presence of legal counsel for all testimony and the request for the subpoena of a former employee to be quashed.

'Overall the Petition goes overboard, and utilizes relatively weak objections in an attempt to circumvent the Committee's process. The filing of these objections, frankly speaking, only solidifies the resolve of the Committee to investigate and determine the facts regarding the use of funds and other matters so appropriate laws can be put in place to prevent further misuse of the Nation's Funds.'

Williams filed a brief in support of the amended petition Sept. 23.

The brief states that some of the subpoenas were not served to the employees at least five days prior to the hearing. Affidavits signed by the subpoenaed individuals are included in the documentation, stating that the date they were served differs from the date reflected on the subpoena itself.

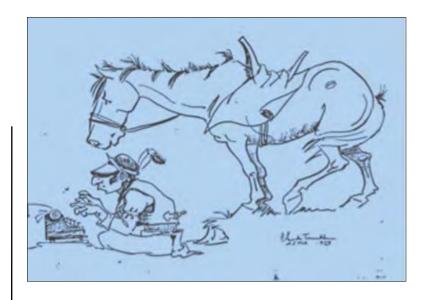
The brief further states that the subpoenas are not specific enough as to what information the individuals would need to provide.

"...it appears the Committee is attempting to delve into specific incidents and personnel actions (including matters of a confidential nature) under the Executive Branch—an area that is not under the authority of the National Council or the Committee."

'MNN' contacted the MCN District Court the morning of Nov. 20, regarding the status of case number CV-2015-124GB. As of that date, the court has yet to make a decision.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



political and cultural repression."

Nothing against our Italian neighbors, but a close examination of the actual history of Columbus in this hemisphere doesn't paint a very pretty picture. What if those folks had picked the other name? Remember 'America' allegedly came from Amerigo Vespucci?

Can you imagine thousands of people singing, "God Bless Vespucci-land?" (...and a thanks to the Firesign Theatre of decades past.)

California tribes made their presence known lately. Many of them protested and opposed the Pope's canonization of Junipero Serra. They have been saying the priest was responsible for the enslavement and forced conversion of California Indians resulting in their near annihilation and loss of culture.

Not much of a track record for a saint. But, the Pope said he 'apologized' to indigenous peoples while on a tour in South America.

Also, California just passed a law, A LAW, mind you, that banned the 'R-word' as a mascot name for state schools. Four schools there use that name. National Native organizations praise the new law and one thing we saw, "...standing on the right side of history by bringing an end to the use of the demeaning and damaging R-word slur in the state's schools."

It looks like the town of Jim Thorpe, Pa., gets to keep its namesake. The U.S. Supreme Court shot down an appeal from the family of Thorpe and the Sac and Fox Nation to try and return Thorpe's remains to his tribal home.

On to the Presidential horse race (although I'm not sure 'horse' is accurate anymore).

Republican Jeb Bush is the latest candidate to say something about Native Americans. He said the 'R-word' is not offensive to Indian people. And...in another declaration he said, "Multi-culturalism is bad for America."

He added that those who close themselves off, "deny themselves its economic rewards." How about those who never got a chance at those rewards?

Speaking of rewards, Bush took \$100k from the R-word Foundation political action committee backers.

The Santee Sioux of South Dakota tried an interesting turn in their economic development plans. The tribe was working on opening a marijuana 'resort' to take advantage of changes in the laws regarding de-criminalization of the cannabis plant.

They were looking at a lounge, nightclub, video arcade and related stuff. Projections were for \$2 million a

month. Geez, they could have made that much just off the munchies.

But, the federal narcs intervened saying they would bust the rez if the tribe went ahead with the resort idea. So, the tribe's plans went up in smoke and not the way they had planned.

I wonder how many of them stood downwind of that bon-fire?

Remember the woman in Seattle who claimed to be black but was really white? She was after notice and leadership roles in the African-American community there. Well, there has been an Indian version of the same thing. (As if that hadn't happened before, eh?)

Susan Taffe Reed had been making the claim that she was from the Eastern Delaware Nation and should qualify for directorship of the Indian studies program at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. She did get the job, but none of the local tribes claimed her. Her 'Nation' was listed as a non-profit organization and protests ensued.

Her masquerade was uncovered and she was removed from the prestigious position. Yea.

It looks like Native American Heritage Month drew the attention of some big-time athletic wear companies. If you are a fan of the Oklahoma State basketball team, you've notice the turquoise uniforms they've worn on a couple of occasions during the month, courtesy of Nike and its N7 brand.

There is a catch, though. The company is tying promotions and sales of its N7 shoes at the same time.

And...as of Nov. 7, the Adidas shoe company said it would help any Oklahoma school that was planning to drop its Indian mascots and logos. Adidas said it was willing to help with designs and assist with some associated costs. But, no takers.

There are changes on the horizon for our tribe and the Mvskoke Media department. We now have a new freedom of the press law. This new law will provide a basis for our department to cover stories that our readers and citizens have asked us about for years.

This does not mean there will be some kind of free-for-all in the coverage of our own tribe and its business. Our reporters bear the heavy responsibility of providing fair and balanced coverage and doing the best job possible in getting important, accurate information to our citizens. We are professionals and will adhere to the principles of good journalism.

Have a great Thanksgiving? There's another discussion about THAT holiday's true

Anyway, eat lots of penwv (turkey). — Hvtvm Cerecares (I will see you again).





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Muscogee (Creek) Nation honors another citizen through art

By: Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla.

— Muscogee (Creek) artist Steven Grounds painted a portrait of fellow Muscogee (Creek) citizen Will Sampson from start to finish during the Okmulgee Chili Cookoff Oct. 17 at the MCN Council House in Okmulgee.





Will Sampson's eldest daughter, Andra Freeman was on hand for the event.

"This really warms my heart. It has been 28 years since Dad passed and he is still influencing the next generation," Freeman said.

Grounds spoke to the crowd before beginning the painting.

"In doing his portrait, I am just hoping to capture some of that spirit. So, he can have a sense of his being and still being with us today and so that everybody can have a shared experience through the art," Grounds said.

The portrait will be part of the Muscogee (Creek)
Nation Cultural Center and Archives permanent



HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN File Photo

find something so terrible that they could justify giving her a new home."

Fox referenced this in 'NNT' coverage further stating that he could not directly comment on specific citizens' business at Housing due to federal regulations.

"With this particular citizen that was brought up at the Council meeting, her house was in really bad shape," Fox said. "The chief doesn't make that call; I don't make that call. I have inspectors; I have people from Environmental that tell me what needs to be done."

Funding source

Tiger said that the specific waiver for a Council representative addressed in the allegations for this program does not break federal law.

"On this particular house, I understand that there's some allegations of us breaking federal law... Federal law does not play in any role in that particular case," Tiger said.

Tiger said that in the specific waiver, NAHASDA and federal money was not used to grant the citizen a home, but instead used funds from the Housing proceeds of sale account.

MCN Attorney General Roger Wiley fulfilled a request from the Council to conduct an investigation regarding Ade's home and returned a letter regarding his findings based on a NAHAS-DA document from the Hughes County Clerk's Office and other circumstances surrounding her case.

See Figure 1

'Due to Ms. Ade's age and the condition of her former home, she is qualified to participate in the Alternative Housing Program of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.'

MCN legislation TR 05-030 adopted the alternative housing policy for low-income and elderly citizens who qualify for the rehabilitation program and the cost for repair is not economically feasible.

The law states that Housing will maintain a separate waiting list for this program.

The law does not address a waiting list waiver, but refers back to NAHASDA and HUD requirements.

The law states that proceeds of sale may be used if the repair cannot be made due to environmental issues or, 'if there is an eminent threat to the health and safety of the family to remedy the situation.'

'MNN' acquired deed paperwork for Ade titled, 'NAHAS-DA Useful Life/Use Restriction Agreement' from the Hughes County Clerk's Office and sent an inquiry with the document to HUD regarding its relevance.

See Figure 2

HUD Regional Public Af-

fairs Officer, Region VI Patricia Campbell replied, 'If a non-NAHASDA account, what they refer to as "the Program Income Account" was used to house the party in question then there would be no federal guidelines required and thus no need for a NAHASDA restrictive document to be filed.'

The letter from Wiley states that he had provided a copy of this letter, which listed the material he referenced for his determination based on the Alternative Housing Program requirements, to the HUD Office of the Inspector General in the event there was something he overlooked.

'It appears the MCN Housing Division adhered to this policy through the course of the property transaction concerning Ms. Ade.'

Condition of house in question

In 'NNT' coverage, Josie made further comments regarding the condition of Ade's original home

"So when I did the assessment on her home it wasn't that bad," Josie said. "Other people didn't get a house that were living in the same conditions that she was in, she just lived in an old house."

Josie also alleged that the MCN Alternative Housing Program policy was violated because Ade kept her old home and was renting it out.

The policy states, 'The applicant must sign an agreement to have the existing home demolished or a statement that the property will not be inhabited or that further housing services will not be requested for that property.'

"I did some investigations and she is renting her old house out. Now to me, if her house is so bad, why is she renting it out to someone else to live in?" Josie said.

Ade responded to these allegations on 'NNT.'

"Rodney said that my house was rented out. It's not rented out; everything's caved in," Ade said.

Disclosures

MCN legislation TR 05-086 adopts a conflict of interest policy for individuals seeking Housing services.

The law states that examples of conflict of interest parties include Council representatives, MCN employees and their immediate families, but does not exclude them from seeking services if qualified as a low-income individual.

The law states that if the individual qualifies as low-income, that public disclosure of the services obtained and HUD notification is required.

It goes on to say that HUD approval is required for conflict of interest parties who do not meet the low-income eligibility requirements and that public disclosure of services is required.

Tiger said in 'NNT' coverage that the conflict of interest waivers are disclosed.

"On any waivers, there's a disclosure that's submitted and everyone involved sees that disclosure whether it's an employee or Council member before the waiver is given. Those disclosures should be knowledgeable by Council members because those disclosures are for them to be able to see as to why these things are going to happen," Tiger said. "This didn't just happen yesterday."

In the 'NNT' coverage, Fox addressed the disclosure process

for Ade's case.

"As far as addressing the National Council no, but there was a disclosure that we filled out that Ms. Ade fills out that's sent out saying that there's an employee wanting some work done," Fox said. "It lets HUD know; it lets that National Council know that disclosure was done so that people knew that job was happening and that was probably done back in 2013."

The Council issued a statement in response to the 'NNT' coverage referencing a 'cited' Council representative further stating, 'that at no point were disclosures sent to the National Council or the Internal Affairs Committee from the administration, the Division of Housing, or the National Council member to provide notification or information about this matter.'

The statement also addressed the waiver process.

'For what appears to be a lengthy period of time, the National Council was unaware that the concept of waivers by the Executive Branch for various housing requirements even existed. When the National Council did find out a waiver process existed in the fall of 2014, the relevant National Council committee specifically requested that the issue be addressed immediately.'

The statement aimed to explain what transpired in lieu of this request.

'The National Council requested that law and policy be created to establish a 3-person board to address, consider, and approve (or deny) any and all housing waiver requests. After consideration, negotiation with the administration, and final review, the final housing policy approved by the National Council, however, did not include any process or authorization for waiving housing application and legal requirements.'

The version of MCN Code Annotated Title 24, Section 2-102 (C) available on the MCN Supreme Court website discusses the Housing operating policy and procedures.

The law states that policies are not in effect unless approved by the principal chief and Council.

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations Title 24, Subtitle B, Chapter IX, Part 1000.30 states that individuals who are part of the decision-making process or have inside information on housing activities or their immediate family are deemed conflict of interest parties, and are unable to receive assistance.

However, the regulation also grants a waiver for conflict of interest parties in Part 1000.32, and states that public disclosure of the conflict must be made.

'HUD may make exceptions to the conflict of interest provisions... on a case-by-case basis when it determines that such an exception would further the primary objective of NAHASDA.'

E-CFR Title 24, Subtitle B, Chapter IX, Part 1000.108-114 outlines waivers for non-low-income families. There are stipulations depending on the individual's income, and vary.

For those in a higher income bracket, the regulation states that HUD must issue a waiver.

'...HUD will have 60 calendar days after receiving the proposal to notify the recipient in writing that the proposal to provide assistance to non-low-income families or for model activities is approved or disapproved.'

The regulation goes on to say that the proposal is deemed approved if the tribe does not receive any notification from HUD within 60 days.

Figure 1

A letter from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Attorney General Roger Wiley to the MCN National Council concerning Council Rep. Shirlene Ade's home.

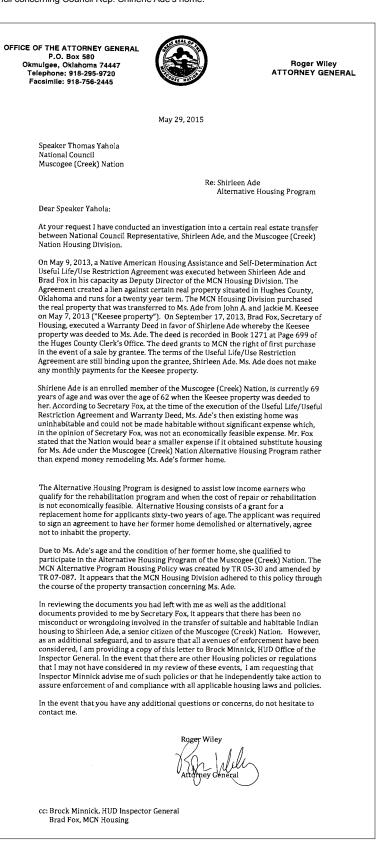
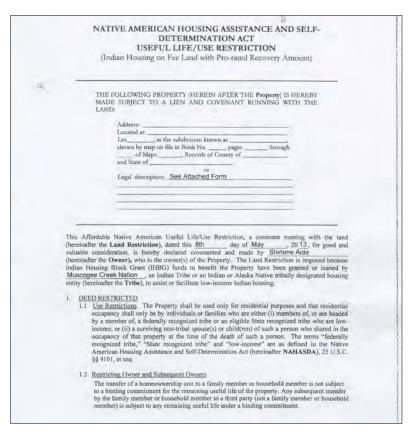
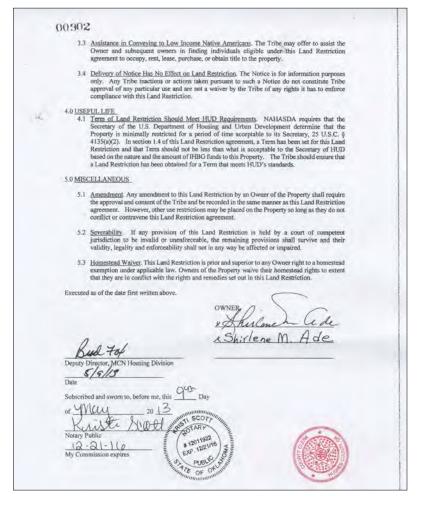


Figure 2

Pages one and three of the deed paperwork.







MNN File Photo

Service tends to spiritual, emotional needs

Pastoral Care available for citizens

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Services Department offers a pastoral care service, which is available to all citizens with a focus on those 55-years and older.

Pastoral Care Advocate Rev. David Dunson explained there is a misconception that pastoral care is about converting people to Christianity.

tant," Dunson said.

Dunson also does grief counseling, home blessings and cleanses homes for those experiencing, "spiritual warfare" by smoking them with cedar.

He is called on to assist families with arranging traditional funeral services.

"At that time, they are not really thinking clearly, but to have someone come in and say, 'This is what you need to do, this is the way traditional funerals are usually handled," Dunson said.

Dunson enjoys being able to

([It] is just being there in a time of need. No matter what the need is."

- MCN Senior Services Pastoral Care Advocate **Rev. David Dunson**

"[It] is just being there in a time of need, no matter what the need is," Dunson said.

Dunson fulfills a lot of roles for individuals and families. From counseling to communions, Dunson is available 24 hours a day with the exception of Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

In his role as a PCA, Dunson serves as a chaplain for both the MCN Medical Center in Okmulgee and the Okemah Indian Health Center and also does nursing home visits.

"Sometimes they just need someone to talk to and that's where pastoral care is so imporhelp people in times of need, but also on joyous occasions, such as baptisms and weddings.

Dunson likes that his job is unpredictable.

"I make my schedule out of what I am going to do today, but if I get a call and they say, 'Dave, we need you here, then everything changes," Dunson said.

In-person services are only available within the MCN jurisdiction. However, Dunson is available by phone to any citizen across the country. Pastoral care services are free and confiden-

For more information, contact Dunson at: 918-752-7098.

DANIEL BARNETT



GONZALES, La. — Daniel Barnett, a native of Wetumka and resident of Gonzales passed away at his home Oct. 27, 2015 at the age of 70.

He was retired from the Louisiana Department of Corrections and he also worked at BASF as a security officer.

He is survived by his: wife of 43 years, Ann Carpenter Barnett; niece, Helen Leah B. Wolsefer as well as two great-nieces and two great-nephews.

He is preceded in death by his: parents, David O. and Helen Ruth Albert Barnett and brothers, Louis G. and David R. Barnett.

He was a Native American of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and was a member of the First Baptist Church senior adult men's class.

Visitation was held at First Baptist Church of Gonzales, 1217 S. Burnside Ave., Gonzales, LA 70737 until the funeral service Oct. 30.

The service was conducted by Pastor Brent Hill. Interment was at Lusk Cemetery.

Arrangements were done by Church Funeral Services and Crematory, St. Amant: 225-644-9683, www.churchfuneralservices.com.

CORRECTION

In the Nov. 15 edition of the 'Muscogee Nation News' the article titled, 'Father Shares son's struggle with PTSD' incorrectly listed source Michael Coon's military history.

The article stated: 'Michael became a U.S. Army paratrooper and Vietnam War veteran, and Keith an Army Bradley Tank gunner, .50-caliber machine gunner and decorated soldier of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.'

This should be replaced with: 'Michael enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War era, and Keith was an Army Bradley Tank gunner, .50-caliber machine gunner and decorated soldier of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars.'

Positions available at Mvskoke Food **Sovereignty Initiative**

MFSI/Media Release

Needed: Part-time Bookkeeper, under the direction of the Executive Director. This position is responsible for performing a variety of bookkeeping and accounting duties including financial record keeping and transactions such as accounts payable, receivable, general ledger, grants ledger and monthly billing and related fees. The desired individual must have advanced experience with Quickbooks, experience working in a nonprofit setting, an outgoing and friendly personality, demonstrate professionalism and tact in communications with a diversity of individuals, strong organizational and time management skills, acute attention to detail and the ability to work well with others.

Needed: an Information Technology person who is able to communicate well verbally and written. Must be able to create ways to store, organize and present data. Will be able to perform complex technical, analytical and professional services involving program services, database-driven websites and office operations. Administer a variety of database systems. Maintain and administer web and middleware tools.

Test and coordinate modifications. Assume the technical lead for server and online database projects. Troubleshoot and correct issues as they arise. Ensure system is running smoothly. Add new users to the system as needed.

Plan and coordinate security measures as network admin-

istrators. Needed: a Social Media Specialist who has proven working experience in social media. Excellent consulting, writing, editing (photovideo-text), presentation and communication skills. Demonstrable social networking experience and social analytics tools knowledge. Adequate knowledge of web design and web development. Must be able to execute social media strategy, generate, edit, publish and share daily content (original text, images, video or HTML) that builds meaningful connections and encourages community members to take action. Set up and optimize company pages within each platform to increase the visibility of company's social content. Create editorial calendars and syndication schedules. Continuously improve by capturing and analyzing the appropriate social data/metrics, insights and best practices, and then acting on the info. Collaborate with other departments to manage reputation, identify key players and coordinate actions. Positive attitude, detail and customer oriented with good multitasking and organizational ability. If you feel you have these qualifications and can join right in, please send your resume to Myskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative (MFSI), P.O. Box 813, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or please call: 918-759-7898. Indian Preference

AHA BENEFIT RUN SET FOR DEC. 5

JENKS, Okla. — The inaugural Heart and Sole 5k Race to benefit the American Heart Association is set for Dec. 5 at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation RiverWalk in Jenks.

Race day registration is set from 6:30 - 7:45 a.m., a fun run at 7:30 a.m. and the 5k begins at 8 a.m.

For more information about the race or sponsorships call: 918-592-1133.

NATIVE **CHRISTMAS** MARKET SET DEC. 12

SAPULPA, Okla. — The fifth annual Native American Christmas Market is set for 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Dec. 12 at the Elks Lodge, 24 S. Poplar Ave., Sapulpa, OK 74066.

The featured artist will be Tim Nevaquaya and concessions will be handled by Autumn Star Catering.

For more information, call Tricia Alexander at: 918-998-4549.

TCIC ELECTION SET FOR **DEC. 15**

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set an officer election for the secretary and treasurer board positions for Dec. 15 from 6-8

The deadline for letters of intent and \$20 for background checks is Nov. 19 by 5 p.m.

For questions or more information call Bea Sanders at: 918-231-0748.



Myskoke Language Preservation Program

HOPORRENKV – Senses

LOWVCKE - Soft LEKHE - Warm TVKVCWE - Hard LVCPE - Wet

KVSVPPE -Cold

HIYE - Hot SOKPE - Rough TENEPE - Smooth FVSKE - Sharp

TENASPE —Slippery **KVSUPPUSE** — Cool LOWVCKUCE - Squishy CVLOKME - Gooey VLOKPETV — Sticky

MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Council approves FlyingTee rent as payable to MCN

NC approves bill for CNG station in Glenpool

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed the following legislation:

• TR 15-202 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a patient transfer agreement on behalf of MCN Department of Health with St. John Medical Center Inc. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

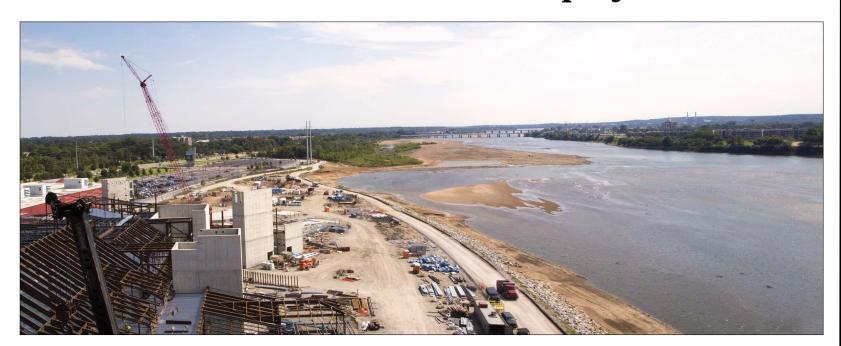
The agreement is aimed at helping MCNDH efficiently and effectively manage its services. St. John Health System operates six hospitals and five urgent care centers around northeast Oklahoma. According to www. thefreedictionary.com, a patient transfer agreement is, 'a written hospital agreement between two healthcare institutions for

the transfer of patients from one to another and the orderly exchange of pertinent clinical information on the patients transferred.'

• TR 15-203 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a support summary agreement on behalf of MCNDH with GE

Council - 6

Future MCN involvement with River project uncertain



MNN File Photo

Those involved with the Tulsa Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force have voiced their intention to approach the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for a financial contribution towards two proposed low water dams. This is in an effort to increase water levels in the portion of the river that runs through the Tulsa area, part of which flows near the tribe's Margaritaville themed expansion at River Spirit Casino in south Tulsa, Okla.

Citizen reported missing in Eufaula

Unknown person seen dropping of truck

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Peggy McGuire was reported missing Nov. 16 from Eufaula.

Investigators, family and friends have spent the last two weeks or more searching for clues, leads and answers regarding the disappearance of the 29-year-old.

McGuire is described as 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 140 pounds and having curly blonde hair and blue eyes.

McGuire was last seen dropping her 8-year-old son off at school in Canadian.

She has not been heard from since around 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 16.

"If we get somebody that



Internet image

seen that truck anytime after Monday at 10 o'clock that would be a lead," McGuire's stepfather Donnie Davis said.

Surveillance video shows McGuire's Toyota truck driving into the parking lot of TJ's Ice House, a bar on Hwy. 9, west of Eufaula on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 17.

"It was in the rain when the

Missing - 4

Task force voices intention to approach MCN for funding

This story has been updated after initial online publication for the inclusion of an interview with MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force has finalized a plan, which involves financing two low-water dams to raise water levels in the portion of the Arkansas River that runs through the Tulsa area.

Members of the task force plan to ask the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to help pay a portion of the estimated \$242.7 million cost for the project.

"We're waiting on a firm number or request from the task force for the participation by the Creeks and at that point, it will be a decision by the Council and the chief," Vic Vreeland, consultant on economic development and governmental affairs for MCN

said.

The project, which also involves development at Turkey Mountain and trails on both sides of the river, would reportedly provide better water flow near the tribe's Margaritaville themed expansion at River Spirit Casino in south Tulsa and at the RiverWalk complex in Jenks.

"Because as you know, there's going to be a beach theme but we don't have any water in the river at times," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said of RSC.

The dams would back up water to create two lakes, one of which would extend past downtown.

"Another one that is probably of more interest to the tribe is

River - 4

Principal chief-elect discusses initial outlook

Floyd addresses housing, budget concerns

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In an interview with 'Native News Today,' Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief-Elect James Floyd addressed concerns and ideas he has for MCN during his upcoming term.

Background

In his previous job experience, Floyd said he would be briefed on problems and issues, and would jump into his position quickly.

"Here, there's a little more time fortunately so I can begin to know some of the issues and the people involved," Floyd said. "But the approach is very simi-

Floyd said that he is more familiar with the people, families and communities involved in his new position, which helps personalize the effort for him.

Floyd earned a master's degree in public administration/health administration from Portland State University in 1990. He has a bachelor's degree in allied health administration from Northeastern State University.

His work experience includes a 35-year executive background with MCN, the U.S. Office of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Floyd served as the director of the Jack C. Montgomery Medi-

Outlook - 3

ATTENTION

The 'Muscogee Nation News' requests that all subscribers update their contact information to ensure we are able to continue mailing you our publication and send you the 2016 Muscogee (Creek) Nation calendars.

To do so, contact Wilma Murphy at: 918-732-7720.

Principal chief reflects on term in office

Tiger talks business, media and politics

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 'Muscogee Nation News' sat down with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger to talk about his time in office.

Tiger began with his inauguration speech.

"One of the things I said was status quo is not longer acceptable and we were going to be aggressive. We are going to be diverse in some of the things we were going to do and I believe we did that," Tiger said.

After taking office, Tiger along with cabinet members and citizens developed a strategic plan for his four-year term. He felt it was important to include a variety of people with different strengths to be able to make a difference for the future.

There were specific areas the strategic plan targeted.

Health care

Tiger wanted to improve the MCN health care system.

"Citizens were saying that they needed assess to health care facilities that were closer to their areas," Tiger said. "And needed more access to having more resources in health care."

This included the purchase of the former George Nigh Rehabilitation Center, now known as the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center and the Okmulgee Memorial Hospital, which was renamed the MCN Medical Center, both located in Okmulgee.

Tiger remarked on the OMH acquisition because the Nation did not spend any funds to purchase the facility.

"We had heard that the hospital was having a hard time in being able to meet the salaries and being able to keep the doors open on a

Reflects - 3

Behavioral Health Services provides HIV education to community

Depression, mental illness linked to disease

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinators

OKMULGEE, Okla. — According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 218 Native Americans were diagnosed with HIV infection in 2013.

While this number may not seem significant, the CDC also reports that Native Americans have the highest rates of diagnosed HIV infections due to injection drug use when compared with other races.

HIV is a virus that weakens a person's immune system so that they are unable to fight off infection. HIV can develop into AIDS when the immune

system is badly damaged, or your CD4 T cell count is very low.

HIV can

be transmitted through injection drug use, sex and homemade tattoos and piercings.

Muscogee
(Creek) Nation Behavioral Health
Services Case Manager and HIV/ hepatitis C tester and counselor
John CoCké said some people still believe the myths about HIV transmission.

"People are very unaware and uneducated when it comes to knowing about different STIs, different ways of getting HIV," CoCké said. "I still do presentations all over our Creek jurisdiction and there are people that still think you can get it from a mosquito bite."

For World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, HIV and Hepatitis C testing was provided through a College of the Muscogee Nation grant specifically for students, but also was available to community members.

CoCké relayed the importance of being tested.

"There's so many people walking around that still don't know their status and everybody should know their HIV

status," he said.

CoCké said that testing positive for HIV or hepatitis C is no longer the death sentence that it was years ago. Now there is a cure for hepatitis C, and a prevention drug for those at risk of contracting HIV called PreP.

If an individual tests positive, they are referred to a case manager and resource center to help with medication and counseling.

"We do recommend that you see a counselor because you're going to be going through all kinds of emotional things and depression will set in," CoCké said.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, de-

pression and mental illness have been linked to individuals with HIV/AIDS. Depression can affect a person's quality of life and cause them to stray from their treatment plan.

According to www.

aids.gov, individuals

with HIV/AIDS

are at a risk of depression because of stress due to of a support sys-tem, dealing with the stigma of the disease and the daily disease management.

CoCké believes that lack of education is to blame for HIV/AIDS infections in Indian Country as well as the hesitancy to talk about sex.

According to the U.S. Indian Health Service website, sexual behavior, as well as drug and alcohol abuse make Indian Country vulnerable to the disease.

Other MCN HIV/AIDS educational events and testing will be held within the next year.

For more information about future events or MCN Behavioral Health Services, call: 918-224-9307.

If you or someone you know is HIV positive and lives in northeastern Oklahoma, visit: www.tulsacares.org to learn more about the services available.

According to www.aids.gov, individuals with HIV/AIDS are at a risk of depression because of stress due to loss of a support system, dealing with the stigma of the disease and the daily disease management.



Amanda Rutland/Mi

Muscogee (Creek) Nation and City of Okmulgee officials of the along with citizens of the community gathered Nov. 20 at the corner of 6th and Muskogee streets for an unveiling of the first of several bilingual street signs in English and Mvskoke in the downtown Okmulgee, Okla., area.

Okmulgee celebrates Mvskoke heritage with street signs

Tribal language featured in downtown Okmulgee

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Bilingual street signs in English and Mvskoke have been installed in the downtown Okmulgee area.

There was an unveiling ceremony for the first sign Nov. 20 at the Harlan Ford parking lot on the corner of 6th and Muskogee streets.

Okmulgee City Mayor Ste-

ven Baldridge said MCN is a valuable partner and the city is proud to display the native Mvskoke language.

"As citizens and visitors alike venture downtown, this is just a small way to show our appreciation to Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Baldridge said.

Baldridge said he was amazed to see the accomplishments possible when all involved parties work together.

"I feel like we have a sense of community here in Okmulgee and we are truly making this a better place and a great place for us and our children and the next generations," Baldridge said.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger felt this was a historic occasion and honored Muscogee (Creek) elders who have passed on.

"As a young child having grown up here in Okmulgee, I remember running around that lawn while the elders took care of our business upstairs and we have gone from that to today doing this is certainly a historic occasion," Tiger said.

MCN National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola spoke at the ceremony. He felt the signs were a way to honor and preserve the history of Okmulgee.

Yahola said in the future he hopes to see the sign for Muskogee street changed to represent the traditional spelling of Mvskoke.

"Hopefully in a couple years, you'll have to change the way it is spelled because I am going to offer an amendment to spell it the traditional way, but we have to go through a process but we will take care of that," Yahola said.

CCA Interim Director Justin Giles believes the street signs are more representative of the Okmulgee community than the previous signs.

The street signs are one of the changes to downtown area as part of the community revitalization effort known as Okmulgee Rising.

Structurally insulated panels available for public purchase

Efficiency construction material available for public purchase

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The structurally insulated panels plant in Wetumka is growing. It was transferred to Onefire Holding Company LLC who placed it under Edo Building Systems.

"We're in the process of expanding the plant or a different facility, something. We've got to the point, we've got to have some more space," Production Sales Manager Billy Graff said.

Graff said the plant is producing panels for many of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's construction projects, such as the new hospital in Okemah and the Reintegration building in Henryetta.

SIPs offer energy saving benefits and save time during construction.

"If you do a total envelope, I am talking about a floor, walls,

ceiling, a total envelope of a SIPs house; the energy efficiency savings in the first year is probably going to be in the 30-40 percent range," Graff said.

Graff explained that they have

the capability to work from blueprints to make panels to specification, which are numbered for easier installation. "You can literally have an av-

erage size 1,800-2,500 square foot house, you can have it stood and dried in, in two days with a good crew," Graff said.

The panels are available for purchase by individuals as well as contractors.

"They are available to anyone who wants to purchase them," Graff said. "We will sell one or 5,000. It doesn't matter."

The panels can be purchased by square footage or per job.

Graff said the cost varies, the more basic the panel, the less expensive they are.

As an example Graff explained that a 4x8 foot panel with no

wire chases and no window cuts begins in the \$4.50 a square foot range.

One determining price factor is the thickness of the panel.

"They vary from three inch up to 12 inch, depending on what you are going to use them for, you know. The R-value you are trying to achieve," Graff said.

According to the Energy Star website, 'R-Value is a measure of insulation's ability to resist heat traveling through it. The higher the R-Value the better the thermal performance of the insulation.'

Graff explained insulation in most new homes is an R-value of 14-19, but a six-inch SIPs panel has the equivalent of 24 R-value.

"I would say the standard is probably a six-inch panel and you are looking at an R-24 value on insulation value on it," Graff said.

For more information about SIPs, call: 918-518-6701 or email info@edobuildingsystems.com.

MUSCOGEE NATION

STAFF

INTERIM MANAGER

JASON SALSMAN jsalsman@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA SPECIALIST MEDIA C

AMANDA RUTLAND arutland@mcn-nsn.gov

PROJECT SPECIALIST

CHELSIE RICH crich@mcn-nsn.gov

REPORTER

DARREN DELAUNE ddelaune@mcn-nsn.gov

EDITOR

STERLING COSPER scosper@mcn-nsn.gov

MEDIA COORDINATOR

JESSICA MCBRIDE jmcbride@mcn-nsn.gov

RADIO SPECIALIST

GARY FIFE gfife@mcn-nsn.gov

CIRCULATION

WILMA MURPHY wmurphy@mcn-nsn.gov



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REFLECTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN File Photo

monthly basis," Tiger said. "We assumed a \$5 million plus debt that we were able to retire in about a 18-month period."

In order to expand the quality of care, urgent care clinics were developed in Okemah and Okmulgee to lessen patient wait times. Also, construction began on a new hospital facility in Okemah and a new clinic in Eufaula.

Economic development

Tiger said he wanted to move away from what he the stereotypical smoke shop and casino type of economic development to incorporate diversity.

One of the first major purchases in his term was the RiverWalk complex. Tiger said the purchase immediately increased the Nation's assets by \$36 million.

Tiger addressed critics of the purchase.

"It does two things: it diversified our economic possibilities development and it also increased our land base," Tiger said. "But more importantly, it was directly across from our casino, our 81st and Riverside."

Tiger said the RiverWalk purchase was in line with the strategic plan.

"We didn't just blatantly or arbitrarily look at RiverWalk like, 'hey let's just do it,' " Tiger said. "It was a great buy. Where else can you get a \$47 million project for \$11.5 million?"

In terms of development for RiverWalk, MCN started a joint venture to create an anchor tenant with the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue, which Tiger said is slated to open in late 2016.

Tiger felt that the oversight of RiverWalk should have been moved to the Onefire Holding Company LLC sooner than it was.

"Once Onefire got the oversight, you could start to see the positive results," Tiger said. "I see that continuing. There is a great deal of momentum."

Another purchase was the former Okmulgee Country Club. Tiger said the purchase was not about acquiring a country club or a golf course.

"We purchased it because it was a prime piece of property that was in our capital city of Okmulgee...It just happened to be a golf course," Tiger said.

Tiger said the property is being considered as a housing area for veterans.

Tiger spoke about accusations that the Nation is in financial hardship.

"Our portfolio financially is outstanding regardless of the talk that the tribe is broke and that we didn't have any money and all that. Well, that certainly isn't the case," Tiger said.

Transparency

Tiger said one of the goals of his administration transparency in every aspect.

"This administration was the first in almost 30 years that actually provided a semi-annual report that showed where funding or monies were being spent, how they were being spent," Tiger said. "It was sent to every household that gets our newspaper."

Tiger believes there was some 'misinformation' regarding the forensic audit.

Tiger said the final report included a summary of findings.

"That's all it was, a summary. premier casino site there at It doesn't say that people did wrong," Tiger said. "It just brings out the fact that these are things that we were told."

Tiger said he welcomed the audit and reiterated that his work with the MCN National office did not interfere with the investigation.

"It was only at a time whenever there was sensitive personal, confidential information of our tribal member's that was going to be looked at that we knew we had to take a stand, not to interfere but to protect our citizens," Tiger said.

Tiger called himself a proponent of free press and believes that as someone who worked in broadcast his administration gave the greatest opportunity for free

"I believe that with our radio, our television, our newspaper, this administration allowed for them to have many more opportunities than any other administration to be able to report and write freely," Tiger said.

He did question the recent independent press legislation by saying he felt it needed to be tweaked because he felt it had a lot of 'loop holes.'

Tiger said he asked for improvement from Nation's media outlets and said he hopes the citizens are served well.

"I think it's important that they continue with the ability to provide the best available resources for our tribal members to have," Tiger said.

Looking to the future

Tiger felt that his time in office has made him a stronger person.

In his personal life, his wife was diagnosed with breast cancer in January while caring for his mother-in-law, who also has cancer.

At the same time, he felt there was posturing between his office and the National Council.

"I became very strong. I didn't allow those things to interfere with what I am supposed to be doing as principal chief," Tiger said.

Tiger felt that sometimes people forget everyone is 'in this together.'

Tiger believes his administration leaves a solid foundation for the incoming administration.

Tiger said accomplishments during his tenure would not have been possible without the ability to Council.

"When leave we. December as administration, our Nation will be very strong financially, very strong in many areas," Tiger said. "We're pleased that we had the opportunity to do things I said during my inauguration speech."

OUTLOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



MNN File Photo

cal Center in Muskogee from 2012-2015. He announced his retirement from the facility June

Floyd discussed circumstances surrounding the turmoil of the VA Health Care System and a specific case covered in a story produced by KJRH.

Floyd said that veteran's health care was politicized during the time period he served as director of the Muskogee facility, enticing local media outlets to seek out stories regarding Oklahoma facilities.

In coverage by KJRH, a pregnant veteran was outsourced to a civilian doctor for care.

The veteran said that a procedure was denied by the VA, which resulted in the loss of her unborn child. The veteran raised concerns of negligence by the VA. Floyd said that the matter was investigated.

"They found no basis for that and so we moved on," he said. "We cooperated with them fully and continued to provide care."

A report believed to be regarding the case titled, 'Healthcare Inspection: Quality of Care and Access to Care Concerns Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center Muskogee, Oklahoma' is available on the VA Office of the Inspector General website. The report is dated June 16.

"We did not substantiate the facility delayed and denied NVCC (Non-VA Care Coordination) maternity care consult requests. We found that the information patients receive in a document titled "Jack C. Montgomery Fee Basis Pregnancy Process" as well as the NVCC maternity care providers' authorization document is ambiguous at least when applied to select

"In summary, we found the facility's written instructions authorizing NVCC maternity care services to be problematic, especially within the context of a known high-risk pregnancy. However, we did not find the facility uncooperative or to have delayed authorization of NVCC maternity care requests or additionally requested studies for suspected pregnancy complications."

Floyd said that he will apply his process of cooperation with the VA investigations to concerns with the tribe, by being open and honest and allowing investigators to review needed records.

Housing concerns

The 'Muscogee Nation News' published a story concerning MCN Housing Department waivers in the Nov. 15 edition, and follow up coverage in the Dec. 1 edition.

The coverage outlined alleged violations of MCN and U.S. Housing and Urban Development policy regarding waivers for individuals to be prioritized on the housing waiting list.

"I understand that the Office of the Inspector General was at the housing office," Floyd said. "Having worked with them before in my previous roles, they're fairly independent, and so I know they wouldn't share anything with me, but I would certainly want to keep abreast of any investigations that progresses."

'MNN' contacted OIG to inquire about the investigation.

"We do not comment on audits, and will publish our results to our website once the audit is complete," OIG Communications Director Marta Metelko said in a written statement.

Floyd said that if any recommendations are made in the report, that they will follow them. He said he has yet to meet with MCN Housing representatives regarding the issue.

Transition and budget

Floyd said he has met with different MCN employees in planning the inauguration and beginning the transition for his official first day Jan. 4, 2016.

"...I believe that we all have the same goal in mind and that's to make sure that the tribe continues to run smooth, that we take care of people," Floyd said.

One concern that Floyd said he has been approached with is fears of employees being laid off once his administration takes

"We do have to look at the organization and there will be some reorganization," he said. "But reorganization doesn't equate to mass layoffs."

Floyd said that once he takes office, he will analyze how to enhance efficiency, but that the focus will not be on individual people or positions.

"We need to look at what the mission of the tribe is, how we deliver the services and the end point being what is being received by the citizens of our tribe," Floyd said.

One issue that Floyd said he will need to address is the purported 2016 budget shortfall.

"My concern is that we address the shortfall without affecting the jobs and people, that we can still provide the services that citizens need.

"I think cursory review with people that we've had so far has identified some areas where we can make some cutbacks within our administrative parts of our budget without affecting the programs and without affecting the staff. That won't provide everything," Floyd said.

He said his plans are to maximize the Nation's revenue in areas such as economic development and health care to bridge the remaining financial gap and work with the MCN National Council to negotiate the 2016 budget.

From the campaign trail, Floyd said he kept notes of citizens' concerns and ideas for MCN.

"I will refer to those in the future as we go forward because there is a lot of validity in the points that they brought up and I don't want to lose that," he said. "I want to make sure I keep it in perspective as I make decisions."

The 2016 MCN Principal Chief, Second Chief and National Council Inauguration will be held at 10 a.m., Jan. 2, 2016 at the Myskoke Dome in Okmul-

'NNT' plans to live stream the event on their YouTube page www.youtube.com/user/ MCNCommunications1.

For more information about the live stream event, visit: www. facebook.com/NativeNews-CW19.



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RIVER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

creating a dam around 103rd and Riverside Drive that would create a lake running up to 71st street," Tulsa City Councilor and task force chair G.T. Bynum said.

Tiger cited possible contributions mentioned for the tribe also stating that further input would have to be gathered from the involved parties including the MCN National Council.

"I've heard everything from \$15 million to \$25 million for that one that would basically be just down the river from us," Tiger said.

The proposal is an extension of Vision 2025, which was approved by voters Sept. 9, 2003 to pass a one-penny sales tax increase for 13 years in Tulsa County, 'to grow economic and community infrastructure for future generations' according to the project website.

Vreeland said a vote to renew funding for Vision 2025 is planned for spring of next year.

"It will go to a general vote and they're proposing to do that right now in the spring, which will be far enough in advance of the Tulsa mayoral election that it shouldn't have an effect one way or the other," Vreeland said.

Bynum recently announced his candidacy to challenge incumbent Dewey Bartlett and if they remain the only contenders, the mayoral election will be Nov. 8. If not, a primary election will be held June 28.

MCN Principal Chief-Elect James Floyd said both candidates have contacted him about the project.

"I think the other aspect of this whole thing in Tulsa is the mayoral election that is coming up in a few months and both

candidates wanting to speak with me and the tribe regarding our role in that," Floyd said. "The approach I've taken with that so far since I'm not in office yet is I've not spoken to either group."

Tiger voiced concerns about how the mayoral election would influence the tribe's role.

"I don't want this to come down to Muscogee (Creek) Nation being used as a political football for the mayor's race because I believe we're much more than that...We have impacted the City of Tulsa, the County of Tulsa, the Jenks area with our capabilities and resources that we have to impact it economically," he said.

Floyd shared up front intentions about distributing MCN resources throughout the tribal jurisdiction.

"I know Tulsa holds a lot of promise in terms of economic development but we also have people in the south end, say in Holdenville, and areas like Yeager that also need economic development," he said.

He outlined how this would impact his discussion with project officials when he takes office.

"We'll have to enter into some negotiation with them and I think it will work for us but we'll have to look at what their expectations are and what our capabilities are and then other needs throughout the Nation," Floyd said.

Tiger mentioned some logistical difficulties with developing south of Interstate 40, saying that his office had recognized the potential for a gaming resort at Fountainhead Creek Golf Course in Eufaula as an example.

"Not to say that there isn't a project out there that can't meet what needs to be done in that area," Tiger said. "Everything that we anticipated and considered to some large degree, the feasibility

studies were returning time wise, it wasn't something that we could

He contrasted this with the Tulsa area.

"We know right now what we do in Tulsa, whatever return we have on our investments, whether it be providing more services, adding to the services in terms of financial capabilities right now, is what we're doing in Tulsa," Tiger

MCN National Council Business, Finance and Justice Committee Chairman Robert Hufft said the Council had not been informed about any involvement by the Nation.

"Do we support it? Yes, we support it but financially supporting, at this point in time, no one has approached the Council and at this point in time, it'd be hard pressed for us to support anything along those financial lines in my opinion," Hufft said.

Tiger explained how negotiations were handled between outside parties and the legislative branch.

"We do our studies, we have people come back to let us know whether it's feasible or not and if at that time it is, then we present it to the National Council so they wouldn't know anything about it," Tiger said. "It's not keeping anything secret; it's how this government works."

Hufft, who is the Tulsa District representative, explained his concerns further.

"Financially wise, the Council's not really going to contribute to something like that. Yes, it would help us but it benefits the city itself, the state itself more than us to some degree," Hufft said.

Bynum said they are looking at how the cost will be shared.

"Right now where we are is we have the overall plan, which our task force has reviewed and

now we're working on dividing up the share of costs between the different stakeholders," Bynum said. "The remaining stakeholders involved are the City of Tulsa, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Tulsa County and the City of Jenks."

This has been narrowed down from 10 different communities in the projected \$748.8 million Vision2 measure that failed in November 2012, which also included a low water dam proposal.

"Before, it was a countywide issue so you had people from Owasso, Broken Arrow, Bixby, Glenpool and Sand Springs who were voting on it but really didn't receive a direct benefit from it," Vreeland said. "I think whenever anything like that goes in, everybody in the region

receives benefit from it but they haven't had a direct benefit so that automatically had some no votes there."

Vreeland, who was Jenks mayor for 24 years, said Tiger asked him to represent MCN after he had stepped down from his position and Tiger was elected into office.

"He approached me to be the Creek representative on all the low water dam discussions because of all my previous experience on all the low water dam stuff," Vreeland said.

He outlined this experience.

"...I've been involved in development of the river longer than anyone on the task force and was one of the main people involved with the initial passage of Vision 2025 and this is an extension of Vision 2025," Vreeland said.

MISSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pick-up was dropped off," Davis said. "That was 5:40 in the morning."

An unknown person can be seen walking away from the vehicle in the video.

"If anybody at that time had seen a vehicle parked on the side of the road that they could get into or if they seen that person walking down nine or anywhere else... Seen anything or know anything; for sure need to let us know," Davis said.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation has taken on the case and is processing the truck for clues of McGuire's whereabouts.

Anyone with quality information is asked to come forward.

"If they don't know something for sure, don't put it

out there. That's what we're asking. We appreciate all the efforts and donations people has put out," Davis said. "We love her."

McGuire's mother Betty Davis left a statement on the Bring Peggy Home Facebook page.

'I wish I knew where you are. I'm losing hope everyday that passes. If anyone knows anything about Peggy's disappearance please let someone know. Whoever left her truck at the Ice House knows what happened to her, bring Peggy home. Please I'm begging I want my baby girl.

'She don't deserve whatever happened to her. She loves her son and family, she just wouldn't up and leave. God please take care of Peggy.'

(This statement was edited for punctuation.)

Call the McIntosh County Sheriff's Department with information at: 918-689-2526.



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions. \$100/day will be provided to those who complete each testing day (\$200 total), or \$10/hour if the testing day is not completed.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

> For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys

or on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is** conducting a University of Tulsa and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

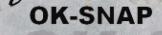
The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or
- take antihypertensive medications Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators: Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the resolution, which passed 14-0.

GE Healthcare provides medical technology and is a subsidiary of General Electric.

• TR 15-204 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a purchase order and quotation on behalf of MCNDH with Zoll Medical Corporation. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

devices and software.

• TR 15-205 Authorizing the principal chief to execute rental agreements between MCN and ScriptPro for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement is aimed at helping MCNDH efficiently and effectively manage its services. ScriptPro supplies automated pharmacy services.

• TR 15-206 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a sales agreement between MCN and Siemens for the MCN Indian Health Facility. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The resolution allows a contract between MCNDH and Siemens for equipment and support services.

• TR 15-207 Approving the settlement of the MCN claims against the U.S. in Muscogee (Creek) Nation v. Jewell, et al., (D.D.C. Filed Dec. 20, 2006) (No. 06-CV-2161-TFH), and attesting the accuracy of trust account balances as stated in periodic statements of performance. Reps. Thomas Yahola and Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN filed suit against the U.S., raising trust accounting claims, trust fund mismanagement claims and resource mismanagement 14-0. claims and seeking relief and damages. MCN retained the Native American Rights Fund as legal counsel Dec. 30, 2013 through TR 13-182, in order to settle the suit. MCN and the U.S. have agreed to an \$8.386 million settlement.

• TR 15-208 Authorizing the construction and operation of a motor fuel and compressed natural gas station to be located on the northeast corner of Hwy. 75 and 181st Street in Glenpool. Rep. David Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

TR 02-066 and NCA 02-183 were approved to purchase the 19.6 acres of property for economic development. NCA 13-267 appropriated funds for two CNG stations. This property will serve as the location for one of those stations.

• TR 15-209 Authorizing the Cromwell Indian Community to explore the operation of the Cromwell Convenience Store. Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCN owns the former gas station, convenience store and restaurant located at Interstate 40 and Hwy. 56, near Cromwell. The legislation states that Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise does not wish to utilize the site.

Through the legislation, CIC would develop a business plan and feasibility study for the convenience store operation in order for the Council to determine if it will allow the community to operate the store.

• TR 15-210 Directing certain Healthcare. Barnett sponsored lease proceeds be remitted directly to the Nation. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 12-2 with Barnett and Randolph voting against it.

The Council passed TR 14-200, executing a lease agreement for a golf entertainment facility at the RiverWalk Development and that rent payments be made to Onefire Holding Company.

The resolution would change Zoll creates and sells medical this to have lease payments made directly to MCN instead of OHC.

> • TR 15-211 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a contract for construction with Bales Construction Services LLC for One Fire Casino. Rep. Robert Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The contract is to replace an old storage building that has deteriorated and build a new one for the amount of \$83,250 in order to store equipment and sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states the festival is committed to upholding Native traditions and assists Native artists with scholarships. The 30th annual Festival will be held Feb. 5-7, 2016.

 NCA 15-251 Authorizing a special \$50,000 appropriation to provide financial assistance to Muscogee (creek) traditional churches for heating expenses. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states that it is difficult for citizens and churches to purchase propane due to high prices. It goes on to say that several churches also need assistance with their natural gas or electric bills during the heating months.

• NCA 15-252 Authorizing a \$1,250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

The amendment would provide financial assistance to citizen Augustine McNac in



Jessica McBride/MNN

A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Nov. 21 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee, Okla.

gaming documents.

• TR 15-212 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a photograph copyright release authorization to allow for publication of certain photographs of the Okmulgee Area. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored non-monetary trust asset or the resolution, which passed

> The resolution will allow photographs purchased by the Nation from the Creek Council House Museum Association to be published in 'Images of America.' In exchange for a fee, archival quality digital images of all of the photographs will be provided to the Nation.

> • TR 15-213 Authorizing OHC to participate in the construction and operation of a motor fuel and compressed natural gas station to be located on the northeast corner of Hwy. 75 and 181st Street in Glenpool. Rep. Pete Beaver sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

> The resolution states that MCN purchased the property in 2002 to be used for economic development. It states that OHC will participate in the construction and operation of the proposed fuel station.

• NCA 15-249 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment will provide financial assistance to citizen Larry Soweka for one month of rent payments, due to his home being unlivable. The legislation states that Soweka obtained two months of rent assistance through MCN Social Services and is not eligible for additional assistance at this time.

• NCA 15-250 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the 2016 Greater Tulsa Indian Art Festival. Reps. Mitch Jack and Barnett

order to help repair a camphouse at the Creek Chapel Methodist Church in Okemah that has been in her family since 1965.

• NCA 15-253 Amending NCA 10-026 (a law of MCN authorizing a special appropriation to the Salem/Ryal Elderly Nutrition Program to continue funding for the cook position) as expended or approved. amended by NCA 13-147. Rep. Darrell Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states that the Nation has been providing financial assistance to the program since 2001 and currently provides funding for the cook and assistant positions in the amount of \$23,000 annually. The amendment would provide an increase of \$7,920 in order for the workers to receive a raise.

• NCA 15-254 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent related to funds appropriated to the Tribal Construction Services Department in fiscal year 2015. Deere sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

NCA 15-143 appropriated \$899,645 to the department for additional personnel and equipment. NCA 15-181 allowed the department to carry over the funds to the FY 2016 budget.

The amendment will allow the department to transfer funds from the personnel expense line item to purchase equipment and materials as well as cover building costs.

• NCA 15-255 Authorizing the expenditure of \$120,000 for the design of the MCN Department of Transportation maintenance facility shop. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

The amendment states that the department needs the shop to maintain the department's vehicles.

The department has the funds available in their budget to pay for the plans and the amendment will allow the department to expend the funds for this purpose.

 NCA 15-256 Appropriating \$20,000 for the 2016 Inauguration Ceremonies. Reps. Lucian Tiger and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The Inauguration Committee will consist of one designee each from the executive and legislative branches, the Council financial officer and the Tourism and Recreation Department director.

The amendment will allow the committee to utilize these funds to plan and host the Inauguration Ceremonies Jan. 2, 2016. Unused funds will be returned to the Tribal Treasury.

• NCA 15-257 Amending NCA 15-224 (a law of the MCN approving a continuing budget ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for FY 2016) as amended by NCA 15-226. Tiger, Hill and Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The amendment states the continuing budget amendment previously passed needs to be amended to fund Ceremonial Grounds, Communities and Churches' Christmas activities.

The amendment will allow these activities to be funded at 100 percent of the FY 2015 approved budget.

Rep. Shirlene Ade was absent. The upcoming regular session is scheduled for Dec. 19.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are

Also, legislation that begins by reading, 'authorizing the principal chief' often grants a waiver of MCN sovereignty to incorporate the services of or to perform some other business with an external entity.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: http://www.mcnnc.com, and the MCN Code Annotated is used as reference material, an occasionally updated version of which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www. creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our *experience and ability*.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law.

The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council. The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If the chief neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10-day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session. For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Citizen helping **Oglala Sioux** build digital legal database



Photo submission

Franchek hopes service will be a model for other tribes

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I like to talk," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jacob Franchek said. "I like to argue."

Franchek, who is in his second year at the Washington University of St. Louis School of Law, spoke about his aspiration to become a lawyer.

"It is very tough but enjoyable," Franchek said. "I love to work but it definitely has its ups and downs."

Franchek is working through Washington University in their partnership with the Oglala Sioux Nation to create an online searchable database for the tribe with their laws and court decisions.

The tribe is located on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Like other American Indian Nations, they have their own sets of laws and tribal courts.

They can make tribal resolutions but they are not easily accessible to citizens.

"The problem with that is that it makes the law uncertain," Franchek said. "It would make it very difficult to find it."

Franchek wanted to help his professor who is assisting with the database

"My professor, Steven Gunn, offered a summer program that deals with tribal law," Franchek said. "He is also a tribal attorney for the Oglala Sioux Nation."

Franchek reached out to Gunn because he wanted to get more experience.

"With the program, that is how I ended up helping with the database and with the Oglala Sioux," Franchek said.

Franchek said there are other paid database services available but theirs will be free.

"The databases that are out now, some are expensive and some are incomplete," Franchek said.

Franchek spoke about the enjoyment this project has brought

"I can't even begin to describe how honored I am," Franchek said. "It was a matter of luck. I happened to be going to law school the year that they want to do this."

Franchek felt that it was the right place at the right time.

"The anticipated time is three years from now to get everything done," Franchek said. "We have a lot of information that we have to codify and put in the system."

Franchek, hopes that this database will be brought to other American Indian tribes.

"I don't think you can overestimate how important this can be," Franchek said. "It would do all the tribes a huge service by getting this database for their Nation and for their people."

Lamar: Little community, rich history

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist



LAMAR, Okla. — The small community of Lamar is located in the southernmost county of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction is home to 158 people. According to a booklet titled 'A History of Lamar,' a woman known simply as Mrs. Ralph Leach, wrote that Lamar began as a turnaround for the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company.



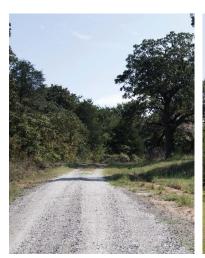


The town prospered because of the railroad and had a number of businesses but now all that can be seen of Lamar's hey day is the main street.





Even prior to the railroad, the Muscogee (Creek) people lived in the area and Tulmochussee Baptist Church existed south of town. My father used to tell me how he and his grandmother and mother would ride the train from Dustin to Lamar and walk the three miles to the church.







Tulmochussee meaning new nation or new town, originally started from Middle Creek #1 Indian Baptist Church located in near by Carson.







The initial congregation was organized in about 1870 and has experienced a metamorphosis, from a log cabin replaced by a modern building (pictured above middle photo) built in 1962, to the newest church and fellowship hall (pictured below).



OKEMAH ACE OFFERS SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

OKEMAH, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) citizen owned Parks Brothers Ace Hardware Store at 100 W. Broadway PO Box 228 in Okemah is offering on-site small engine repair.

For more information contact the store at: 918-623-0772, parks_scottacehardware@yahoo.com.



MNN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Jan. 1, 2016 - Dec. 21

Jan. 15, 2016 - Jan. 7, 2016

Feb. 1, 2016 - Jan. 22, 2016

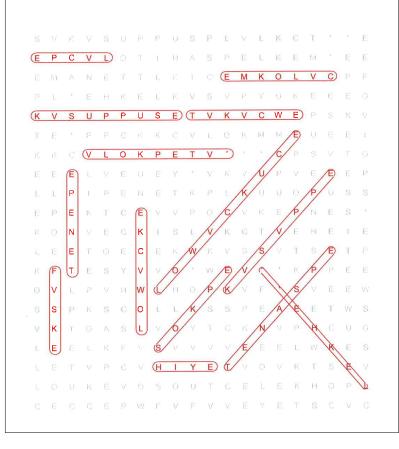
Feb. 15, 2016 - Feb. 5, 2016

March 1, 2016 - Feb. 22, 2016

March 15, 2016 - March 7, 2016

April 1, 2016 - March 24, 2016

Dec. 1 word search solution



GERALDINE JOHNSON



OKMULGEE, Okla. — Geraldine, 'Geri' Johnson went to her eternal heavenly home Nov. 25, 2015 in Okmulgee. Geri was born March 20, 1947 in Oklahoma City at Deaconess Hospital to Neffie Grant Berryhill and Stella Hall.

She was raised by her grandmother, Celia Berryhill and attended school in Eufaula for 12 years. She was an 'EBS' Eufaula Boarding School girl.

During the summer of her junior year, she was sent to Washington, D.C., New York World's Fair and Princeton University. After graduation she attended Northeastern University for two years in Tahlequah. She went to Washington, D.C., to babysit for Thelma Harjo.

Thelma helped her get a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs where she received a special assignment to work with the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Afterwards, she worked at Dartmouth College for the ABC Program, A Better Chance, in Hanover, N.H. Later she worked for the Office of Education in Washington, D.C. Upon returning to Okmulgee in 1977, Geri began working for Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

She was the first Head Start

Manager during the Cox Administration.

She then moved to Housing, where she worked for 21 years, from 1990-2012.

Geri was preceded in death by her: parents, Neffie Grant Berryhill and Stella Hall; honorary mother, Rose Marie Fields; brothers, Garry Berrryhill, Daniel Brown, Paul Johnson and sisters, Phyllis Brown, Wanda Mills, Bonnie Egan and Beverly Grummit.

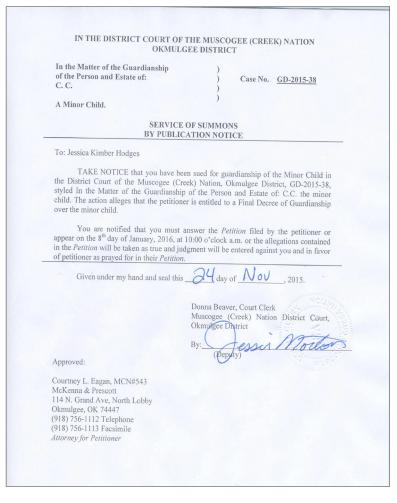
Survivors include her: husband, James Milton Johnson; stepson, James Milton Johnson Jr.; sister, Jessina Brown and brothers, Soloman Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Cy Johnson JR. and George Johnson.

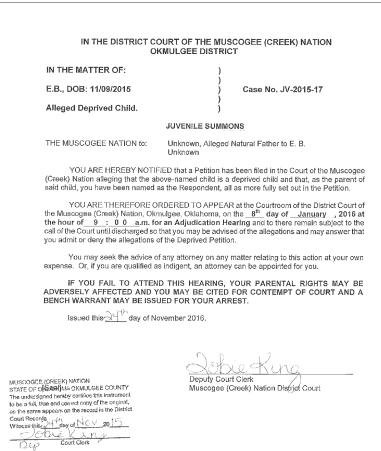
Pallbearers include: Landen Ashburn, Freddie Brown, Joseph Brown, Kayleb Brown, Bear Johnson, Keeper Johnson Jr., Mason MCClellan, and Christopher Torres.

Honorary pallbearers include: Garry Berryhill, Greg Berryhill, Buddy Cox, Garry Egan, Doug Freeman, Micco Freeman, Tommy Johnson, Butch LaSarge, Ivan Pulliam, Thomas Lee Roberts and Larry Joe Soweka.

Viewing was Dec. 1 at Schaudt's Funeral Home and the wake was held afterwards at Tallahassee Methodist Church. The funeral was Dec. 02 with Rev. Dave Long officiating at Tallahassee Methodist Church. Burial followed at Pleasantland Berryhill Family Cemetery off of Celia Berryhill road under the direction of Schaudt's Funeral Home.

Arrangements were entrusted to Schaudt's Okmulgee Funeral Service and Cremation Care. Family and friends may view the obituary and send condolences to the family online at: www. schaudtfuneralservice.com.





LTPD receives federal grant

MCN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department received a \$894,468 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The grant was awarded for coordinated tribal assistance solicitation public safety and community policing.

LTPD will use the funds for upgrades to the communication system and equipment for LTPD officers.

"We're very excited because it's going to help our agency be able to move forward with some of the equipment and items that we wanted to upgrade," LTPD Chief of Police Richard Fixico said. "We're definitely looking forward to it and excited to be able to obtained the well-needed equipment."

This is the first time in four years LTPD has received this grant.

"This grant will allow for our Lighthorse Tribal Police Department to purchase muchneeded equipment, which will give them the tools they need to continue to do the outstanding job they do," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. "I'm proud of all our officers and Lighthorse staff. They work around the clock to protect our Nation's most valuable assets – the Myskoke People."

LTPD serves as the police branch for MCN, watching over MCN properties and coordinating with local policing agencies.

LTPD strives to safeguard the lives and property of the people and communities they serve.

